

Cedilla
or
The Cedilla Takes Off

by

George Brecht & Robert Filliou

L. C. CATALOG CARD No: 68-13352

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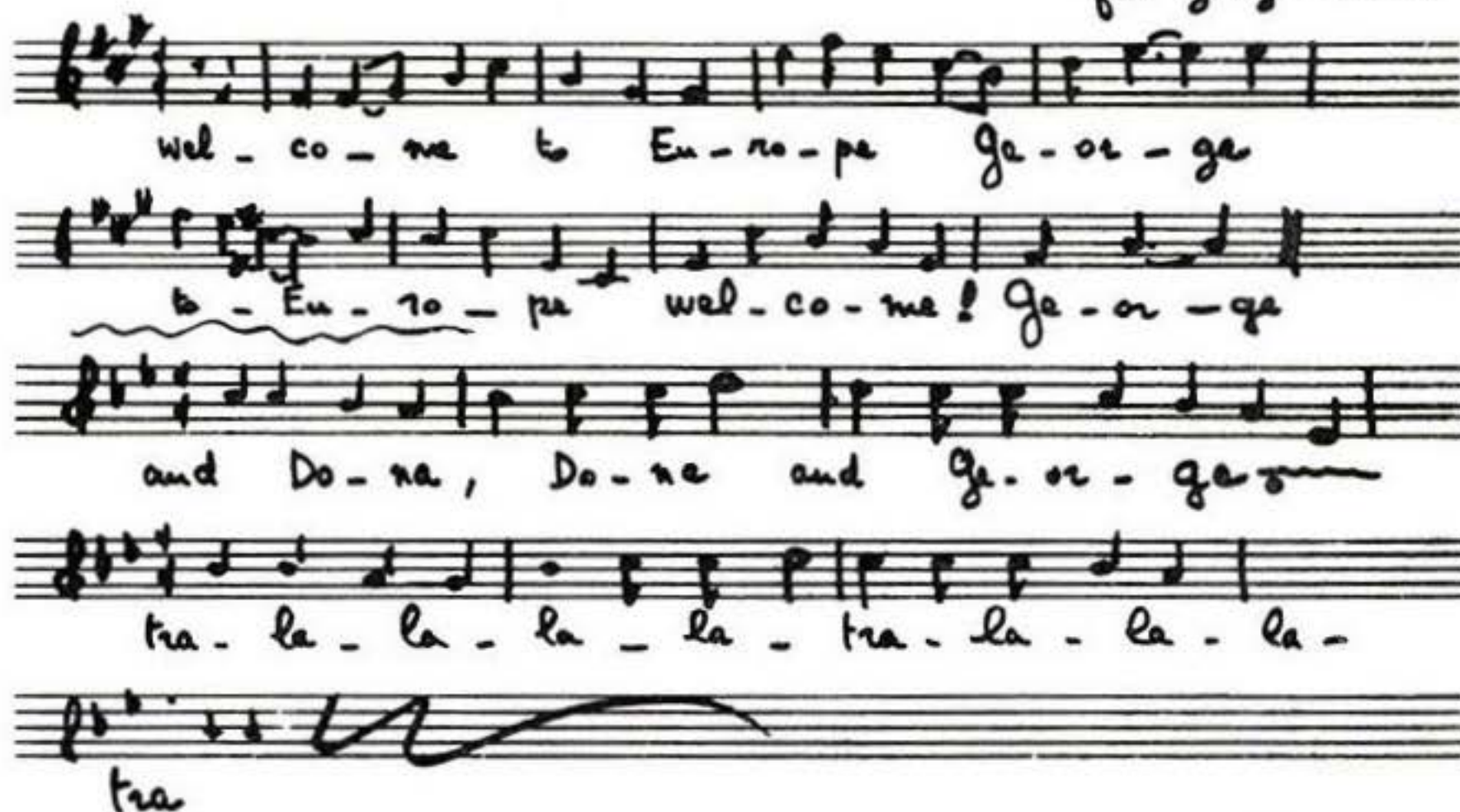
Manufactured in the United States of America



Villefranche-sur-mer.

Photo by Dick Higgins

WELCOME TO EUROPE for George Brecht



Robert Filliam

⁺
l'assistent (?) de Kichka
= (under pressure)

Haiame

Daniel (Ipossu)

My opening is definitely the 6 June (Saturday) at
Galerie Schwart 17 via Géra Hartano. Until then 24 rue
Moufflard Paris 5e

JACK CANEPA

⁺
EMMETT WILLIAMS
(SIGNED)
Emmett Williams
(under pressure)

"How we gonna pay the rent *this* month?"
George and Robert outside the Cedilla (at right).

Photo by J.-J. Strauch



Hello, George and Panna, it's Saturday evening, perhaps you won't receive this letter before answering my preceding one. It's raining here, Marianne and I were sitting in sofa talking somewhat despiritedly about Villefrance, when I had a brain-storm.

The bookshop, if it ever sees the light, must come under the sign of humor. We must handle nothing but humorous, droll books, meaning practically everything, depending how one looks at it.

More specifically: comics

cartoons

children's books

books by cartoonists

humoristic books

anthologies of jokes, games, tricks, etc.

avant-garde publications that are on the

whole showing a sense of humor

droll stories

pornography (nothing funnier than)

various life
Mad, Harekiri,
etc.,
and of course our own
humorous things

Besides we can present everything else and still more as humor.

Classic humor may be philosophy.

Fables and funny tales can be theology.

And so forth and so forth, all this can be improvised.

This should be the most important aspect of creating a

Librairie Humoristique. It would leave us free to improvise,

take lightly and with a grain of salt our new activities,

induce us to ^{create} improvise (gifts as we spoke of, odd publicity,

} I mean vice versa



George and Robert with their landlords, Mme. Marceau and M. Emile, and Coco, who once chewed off of his cage a sign which said "CAUTION COCO BITES."

Photo by J.-J. Strauch

odd ~~xxx~~ objects for sale (like eggs, like bananas), *engage in*
Nice - ~~activities~~ ^{events} we could consider as fun for us and others.

It would also be the surest way to keep contact with Nice:
exhibitions could be had, for instance, that could cut across
all the boring lines of schools, theories and coteries,
provided there was humor in them.

All in all I think it could be very refreshing (when I want
to be refreshed I usually go to the café, and there is one
a very pleasant one two doors from the prospective library)

All in all I'm too excited to go on, for it is really a good
idea, and damn the U.S. Fleet, although the library would
be bilingual, and for the blind, and the deaf, and the
dumb; and the humorless, and the Chinese, ~~and~~ the asking.

It's still raining, but now I ~~feel~~ good. Do you?

Love

Rt.

Even running it ^{at first} from Italy could be fun for
you, no? We'd create a pool of ideas.



Photo by J.-J. Strauch



handles everything which does
or does not
have a cedilla in its name



L'Esprit, October 29, 1966

Toward a "Villefranche of the Arts?"

The passerby who takes the picturesque Rue de May in Villefranche is attracted to a blackboard hanging at one of the doorways. Going closer he can read written in chalk: "La Cédille Qui Sourit."

If curiosity brings him to cross this doorway he finds himself in a real studio where the most diverse objects swarm. This studio is the domain of two well-known artists called Robert Filliou and George Brecht. In the company of their charming wives Marianne Staffelt and Donna Jo Jones respectively they give free reign to their already recognized talents.

Their art is difficult to label. They have succeeded just as happily in literary, poetic, pictorial, sculptural, theatrical and musical domains. Thus one finds in this room a multitude of the most widely different objects. A bench serves for the exposition of games, puzzles, collections of poems, flags. Farther on, Donna composes multi-colored necklaces while George writes his biography. Marianne arranges the shelf on

which are laid out the books, the poems, the collections of theater pieces written by her husband Robert, who puts the finishing touch to his most recent poem.

In spite of the unusual atmosphere which surrounds him the visitor, even one not in the know, takes pleasure in looking over the books, in having the nature of the different objects explained etc. In brief, passing an agreeable hour in the company of two couples of authentic artists of whom their simplicity is a sure sign of talent.

Robert Filliou is going to be able to realize his desires. Already his presence in Villefranche is a first step toward the creation of a city of the arts.

"George and I knew each other in the United States, then met again in Rome. We wanted to create a 'Free city of the arts,' a center of research, of ideas. A common acquaintance suggested Villefranche. That's how a year later we come to be working in this studio, which one evening we baptized 'La Cédille Qui Sourit.' Now we would like to make it possible for people who wish to receive works of art as gifts. It is very difficult to offer these gifts, various factors coming into account, but we would

like, George and I, to convince our fellow artists that such exchanges are possible. In order to accomplish this it would be enough for each of us to 'sacrifice' one of our works, in order to reduce the purchase price. That is possible and we hope very much to arrive at such a result. As far as our future goes we have found in this Rue de May and in this attractive village the place we have dreamed of for working. I only regret that my projects, exhibitions, conferences, etc., take me away so frequently from this 'artists' quarter.' We have no desire to impose ourselves, but we hope to make of Villefranche a sort of city of the arts. . . ."

The arrival of his charming little girl Marcelle interrupts the dialogue to Filliou's great joy, since he likes to talk about himself scarcely at all.

Nevertheless this "Cédille" is attracting an ever growing attention and will make the renown of the Rue de May and of Villefranche.

The success which, since the sixth of October, Filliou's exhibition at the Parisian gallery Jacqueline Ranson has brought, inspired the organizers to put the room at his disposition. The public circulating in the capital will therefore be able to take notice of the existence of this "artists' corner," for Filliou and Brecht are literally going to transplant "La Cédille Qui Sourit" from Villefranche to Paris.

Mister Unusual

Robert Filliou is the creator of action poetry in Europe. His art is above all concrete, without artificiality.

George Brecht, born in the United States, awaits impatiently a positive outcome to the formalities undertaken toward obtaining French citizenship. His initiative has resulted in numerous exhibitions, musical compositions, etc.

Both have known how to find themselves in order to favor in common, the evolution of their art.

Their first result was to integrate themselves perfectly into the life of Villefranche. The charm which emanates from these two couples has permitted a climate of sympathy which extends throughout all the old city.

The neighbors, at first surprised, have adopted them and even better have found themselves in sympathetic agreement. Certainly their moving in has provoked a certain astonishment. An amusing anecdote sums it up: Robert Filliou, coming to pay a bill left with a merchant by his wife, was very amused to read written in the notebook in place of his name: "Mister Unusual."

His ambition is to make of his studio, which has already attracted friends coming from France, but also from New York, Rome, Prague and Tokyo, the point of departure of a "center of artistic research." In the immediate future a popular student theater for children attracts his interest.

Thanks to these two real families of whom the simplicity and the talent force one's admiration, Villefranche, already known in the field of the arts will become one of the "hot points on the map of the world."

Henri Durand*

(translated by George Brecht)

* Tabac-Journaux, Rue de Poilu, correspondent local de *Nice-Matin* et *L'Espoir*

VERS UN "VILLEFRANCHE DES ARTS" ?

Le passant qui emprunte la pittoresque rue De-May, à Villefranche, est attiré par une ardoise suspendue à la porte d'un local. En s'approchant, il peut lire inscrit à la craie : « La cédille qui qui sourit ».

Si la curiosité le pousse à franchir le seuil de cette porte, il se trouve en présence d'un véritable atelier où fourmillent les objets les plus divers.

Cet atelier est le domaine de deux artistes renommés : Robert Filliou et Georges Brecht. En

Malgré le caractère insolite qui l'entoure, le visiteur, même non averti, prend plaisir à compulser les livres, se faire expliquer la nature des différents objets, etc. En bref, passe une heure agréable en compagnie de deux couples d'artistes authentiques dont la simplicité est signe garant de talent.

Robert Filliou va pouvoir réaliser ses désirs. Déjà, sa présence à Villefranche est un premier pas vers la création d'une ville des arts.

est possible et nous espérons bien arriver à un tel résultat. En ce qui concerne notre avenir, nous avons trouvé dans cette rue De-May et dans cette si accueillante ville l'endroit rêvé pour travailler. Je regrette simplement que mes occupations, expositions, conférences, etc., m'éloignent aussi souvent de ce « coin des artistes ». Nous n'avons pas la prétention de nous imposer, mais nous souhaitons faire de Villefranche une sorte de ville des arts... »



Marianne Staffels-Filliou, Georges Brecht et Donna Jo-Jones, les « partisans » d'un Villefranche des arts (Photo Henry Durand)

compagnie de leurs charmantes épouses respectives, Marianne Staffeldt et Donna Jo-Jones, ils donnent libre cours à leur talent.

« Georges et moi, nous sommes connus aux Etats-Unis, puis retrouvés à Rome. Nous souhaitons créer une « ville libre ».

L'arrivée de sa charmante fillelette Marcelle interrompt le dialogue, à la grande joie de Filliou.

Marianne Staffeldt, Robert Filliou, George Brecht, Donna Jo-Jones

Photo : Henry Durand

Oh and Hens Don't Fist Rice is a multilingual rebus solved by naming the objects in the center in English, Italian and German, giving the solution at bottom in French and the solution object hanging below. The parts are sent separately by mail over a period of days, weeks or months. This suspense poem is from the collection of Eliane Fernandez, Nice.

Photo by J.-J. Strauch



LA CEDILLE QUI SOURIT

Donna, George Brecht, Marianne, Robert Filliou
12 rue de May, Villefranche-sur-Mer, A.M.

SUSPENSE-POEMS BY SUBSCRIPTION

Dear

Have you ever subscribed to a suspense-poem? Now you can - for the sum of 30 dollars or its equivalent in foreign currency.

In return you will receive a verse-object two or three times a week, without charge for postage or handling, until the poem is complete (about five mailings).

The whole, put together through your efforts in the order of arrival, will form a suspense-poem-object by GEORGE BRECHT or ROBERT FILLIOU.

Marianne Staffeldt
Handler of Affairs

P.S. Each poem is limited to fifty numbered and signed copies. Orders will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Orders received after one poem is sold will be applied to the following suspense-poem.

Please pay by check or money order made out to MARIANNE STAFFELDT. Your address was given to me by:

LA CEDILLE QUI SOURIT HANDLES EVERYTHING WHICH HAS OR DOES NOT HAVE A CEDILLA.

Continuing creation of presents and unusual games, with the collaboration of numerous artists.

Distribution of original works. Objects-poems.

Supplying publications of Edition MAT, MAT-MOT, Fluxus, Something Else Press.

How To Live On 2 Cedillas A Day

Getting up in the morning,

say:

ça va!

going to bed in the evening

say:

c'est comme ça!

A letter to la Cédille qui Sonit

Mrs. Leonard M. Brown
7 Crescent Hill
Springfield, Mass. 01105

21 February 1966.

Dear Mr. Tice -

Mr. Brown and I are both delighted
and interested by our correspondence poem
and wish to put it together. Only
we are missing the first installment.
Our poem seems to have started
with the second, and if you check
back you will find this is the case.
May we have the first installment please?

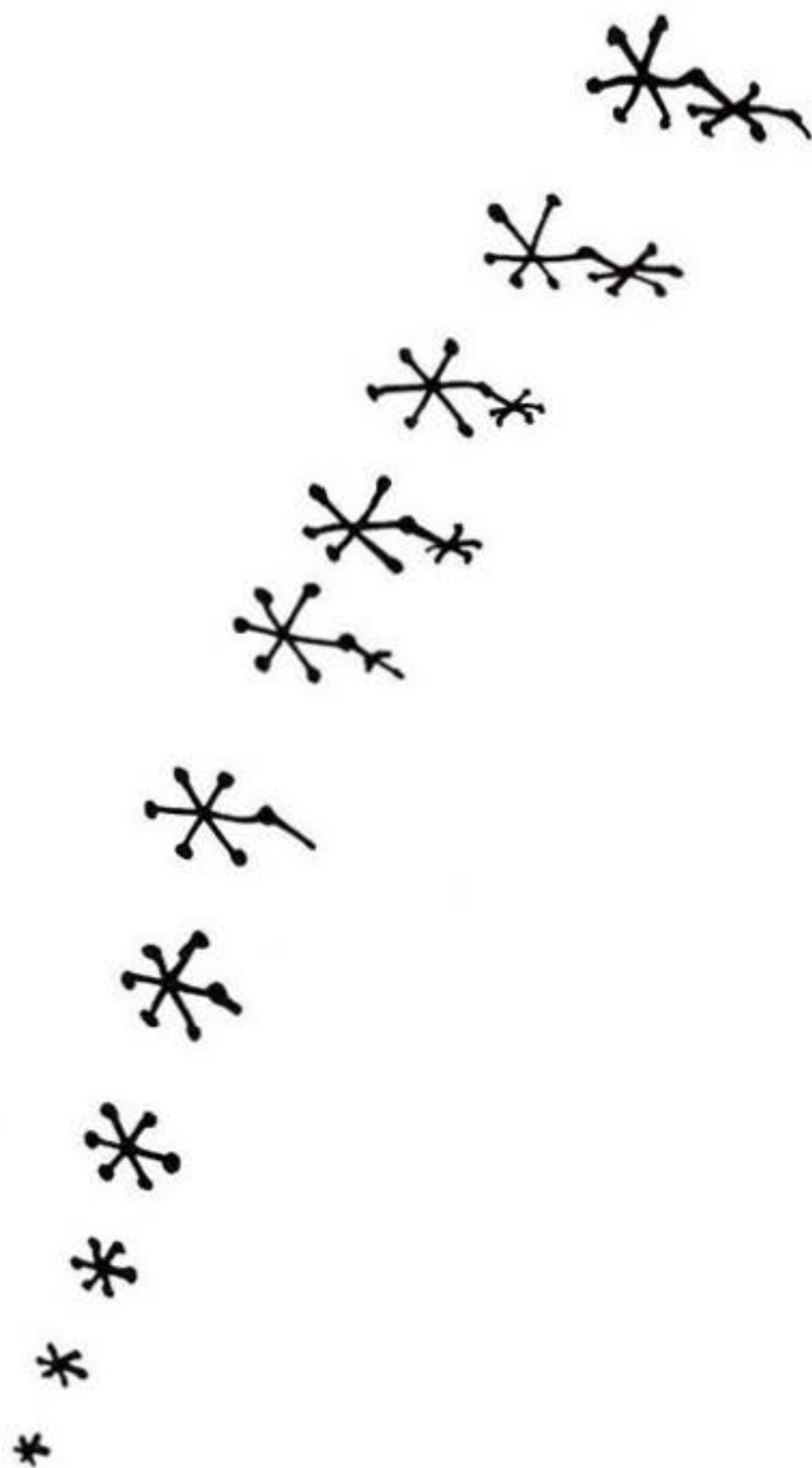
Very sincerely
Jean Brown.

A Pablo Picasso Event *(in the form of telegrams)*

DEAR PABLO
WE ARE THINKING OF PUTTING OUT PABLO PICASSO NECKTIES IN AN EDITION OF
30,000 EACH WITH A DIFFERENT REPRODUCTION ON ONE OF YOUR PAINTINGS OK
LA CEDILLE QUI SOURIT

DEAR CEDILLE
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND
PABLO

DEAR ROY LICHTENSTEIN



Letter To La Monte Young

There is so little to do, and so much time to do it in.

—George

The Useful Game

First player completes "I want to get _____."

Second player, without seeing what the first has written, completes "so that _____."

For example: (played by George and Robert)

I want to get a bucket of steam, so that I won't be awakened every night by children crying.

I want to get a shovel with a perforated scoop, so that tanks will become obsolete.

I want to get some cubes of concrete, so that money will grow on them.

I want to get some pétanque* balls, so that George Maciunas** will edit them.

I want to get large quantities of colored paper so that a ladder can be stood against it.

I want to get pins, wire, and ping-pong balls so that Cousteau will use them in his deep sea house.

I want to get several small animals who are willing to cooperate, so that I won't get burned.

* a game similar to *boules*, or *bocce*, played (especially) in the south of France.

** Fluxus activist (or, activator)

Answer to Ben Who Asked Me What Was Important*

Exercises 3 and 4.

Consider something "important." Call what is not "important," "unimportant."

3. Take something which is "unimportant" and find a way to consider it "important," adding it to what is already "important." Continue in this way until there is no more "unimportant."

4. Take something which is "important" and find a way to consider it "unimportant," adding it to what is already "unimportant." Continue in this way until there is no more "important."

George Brecht

* Not answered by Robert who had already had published his *Ample Food for Stupid Thought* (Something Else Press).

One-Minute Scenario*

A group of men and a group of women face to face.

They all have pies in their hands and are ready to throw them at each other's faces.

From above, a plane drops a bomb on them.

* These scenarios were conceived for French television where, on the hour, and for a minute, one sees the hands of a clock turning.

Event*

- one stream, two shadows
- one shadow, two streams

* Tie event to Villefranche (sewer . . .) **

** Another story we'll tell you if you come.

Miscellaneous Note

Make a ragtime "on a tune of John Cage."

A House of kitchens

each guest is given a
coverbrook & a hotplate

Fave Times "Foua"

FOIE: what Daniel Spoerri was thinking about when he did not drink alcohol for a 22-day period.

FOIS: like it was the first time I saw Paris.

FOIES (*avoir les*): that is when a girl dances with someone she doesn't know.

FOI (Ma . . .!): that's what Moses said when he received the tablet.

FOIX: 1- where the Fuxiens live. 2- Gaston III, Phebus, comte de _____: protector of arts and letters, and author of a Treatise on Hunting, but violent and a fighter (*batailleur*).
(from *Larousse*)

12 rue de May
Villefranche-sur-Mer (A.M.)
France
24 July 1967

Lloyd's of London
London, England

Gentlemen:

"La Cédille qui Sourit" has the pleasure of inquiring under what conditions your firm would undertake insuring its founders, George Brecht and Robert Filliou, against their becoming prematurely senile.

As you may note in the enclosed photocopy of an article printed recently in "L'Express" (January, 1967), "La Cédille qui Sourit" has been described as the first center of permanent creation in the world. We intend to remain faithful to our motto "La Cédille qui Sourit permanently creates anything which has or has not already been created." But George Brecht and Robert Filliou both being forty-one years old, they fully realize that they might start deteriorating without realizing it, a phenomenon known to Mr. Filliou as "gâtisme," and to Mr. Brecht as "precocious senility," in any language a phenomenon notoriously frequent among artists, hence a fact with which your able statisticians will be called upon to cope.

Hence the need for this sort of insurance, accruing to the subscribers when and if a committee of their peers accredited by Lloyd's testify that they are indeed gaga, in which case they would close "La Cédille," cease all creative activity, and retire to smoking pipes and reminiscing. Useful criteria for such senility, we suggest, might be doing the same work twice, speaking incoherently to art critics, confusing Picasso and Mao-Tze-Tung, etc., but of course we leave the ultimate decision as to criteria to your experienced and expert opinion.

All information you may be gracious enough to send will be seriously considered. We anxiously await your reply.

With respectful regards, for La Cédille qui Sourit,
We are, dear Sirs, yours with no time to lose,

ROBERT FILLIOU . . . GEORGE BRECHT . . .

Pour
l'Authenticité des Malentendus

Arman bought something
of Bilton's ^{at the Cédille, that} he thinks
is Brecht's.

We're not saying what this
is, but go see his great collection

of modern art at 186 Avenue
de la Corderie, Nice.

from AMPLE FOOD FOR STUPID THOUGHT
by Robert Fillen

SOMETHING ELSE PRESS, INC. NEW YORK

Place
de
Stamp
here

Favorite Visitors Department

On October 21st, 1965, Arman and Pierre Restany visited the Cédille. Restany suggested we write false adultery letters (in French, English and German) and sell them to tourists. Arman suggested we put up for sale boxes of false Spanish flies; a Foreign Legionnaire's wallet, complete with souvenir photos, letters, papers, military insignia, etc.; unbelievable hunting trophies, like a hunting chair found in the jungle; et cetera.

One-Minute Scenario

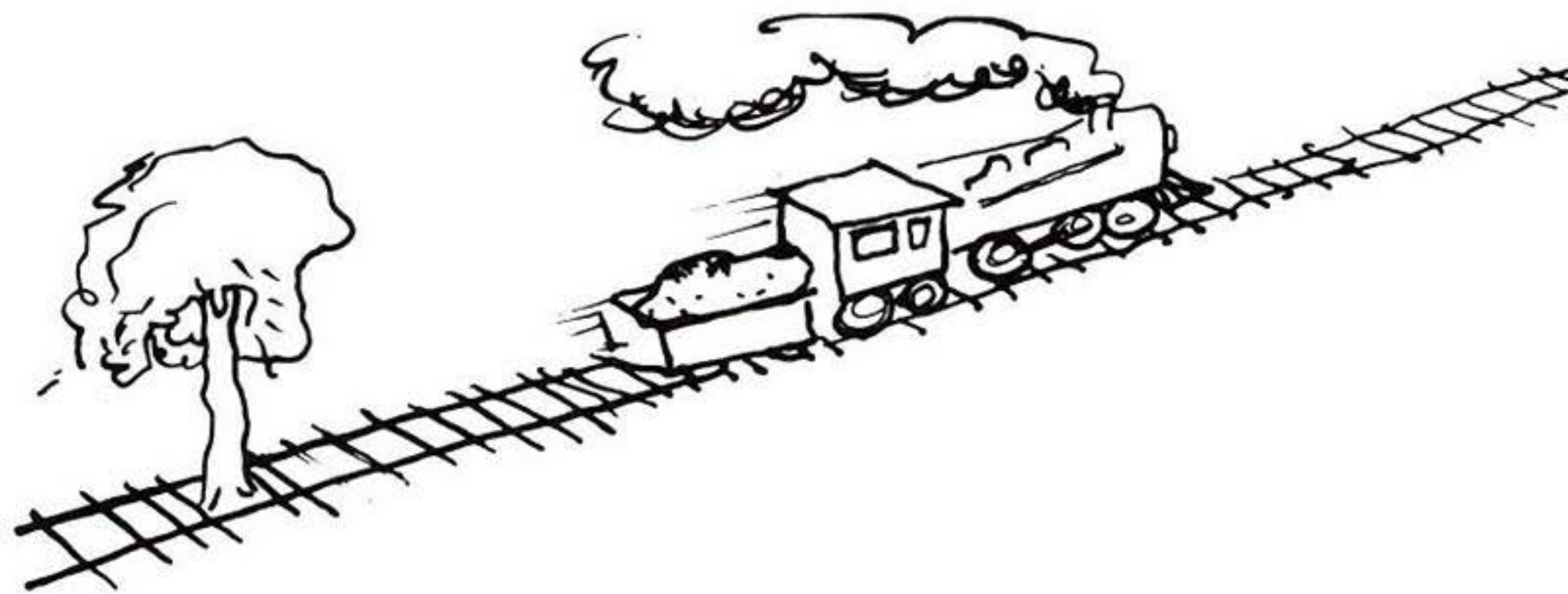
The top of a tree.

It shakes violently from time to time.

The camera goes down the tree.

At the bottom there is a man asleep.

From time to time his head jerks and knocks on the tree.



Dream Poem

(a puzzle for dreamers)

Take a box made up of several compartments.

On each compartment print an object or an animal (cat, tree, etc.).

When you dream of one of the images, put something related (or not) in the compartment.

When all the compartments are filled, you have completed a dream-poem.

This project is ideal for couples:

The boxes and its compartments are then divided into MAN and WOMAN sections!

One-Minute Scenario

People eating their soup.
The camera backs up.
They are in a cage.



One-Minute Scenario

A man taking a bath.
He farts, a bubble comes up to the surface of the water,
then up to the ceiling.
A burst of air carries it through the open window, across
the street, and through the window of a room where a couple
are seen eating.
Right over the table, the bubble bursts.

P.S.

Lloyds refused.

The Mystery Game

I

A Contribution to the Art of Painting:

Take _____ (a colored material)
add to it _____ (a material which dries)
and place it on _____ (a flat surface)
by _____ (an action)

from The Cedilla Cookbook

cédillic:

6 pounds of zebra
18 pounds of dolphin
4 pounds of lynx
9 tame dormice
2 owls
5 liters of whale oil
dandelion root
willow leaves

herbs

garam masala
powdered fresh coffee
palm tree kernels
cactus hearts

ocean water
river water

Put the ocean water in a large caldron over the fire. Disembowel and clean the animals, whose variety must be as great as possible, and who give their best flavor when they have just been caught, and not waiting in captivity. Clean the dandelion root and the willow leaves. Throw into the boiling water the animals cut into small pieces, add the whale oil, dandelion root and willow leaves, the garam masala, powdered coffee, palm tree kernels, and cactus hearts. Let simmer on a slow fire for several days, adding river water if necessary. Pour the bouillon on tortillas and serve the meat in a hollow plate, or serve them both together. It is possible to make the dish even more tasty by adding, first, one little pickle cut in slices; second, geranium petals (vigorously wash them before parting them). They will be added to the dish two seconds before serving.

Serves:

2 Vostells
39 Brechts
1000 Maciunases
8 Dick Higginses
1 Emmett Williams

One-Minute Scenario

Refectory of a women's prison. Hundreds of women eat in silence at long tables. In the middle of the room, a bearded man eats alone at a small table.

OBJET : Long poème
court à terminer
chez soi de Robert Filliou

Cher,

Veillez terminer en temps utile le poème court
suivant : BRINGING UP TO DATE (Le passé actualisé)

EN 425 Av.J.C. j'ai partagé avec Sophocle une bouteille
de Coca-Cola
EN 37 Av.J.C. j'ai joué au bridge avec Cléopatra
EN 1350 Ap.J.C. j'ai accompagné Guillaume de Machaut en
tournée aux U.S.A.
EN 1591 Ap.J.C. j'ai aperçu Shakespeare sur une Vespa
EN 1837 Ap.J.C. j'ai rencontré Delacroix à l'Aéroport d'Orly
EN 1890 Ap.J.C. j'ai
EN 1907 Ap.J.C. j'ai
EN 1952 Ap.J.C. j'ai
EN 1966 Ap.J.C. j'ai (je n'ai pas) accepté l'invitation de
participer
à 21h30 Heure
à LA CEDILLE QUI SOURIT Lieu
le 12 Février 1966 Date
à 12 gestes Vie
à un spectacle Vision
à une musique Audition
à une vente Action
à un cadeau Objet
à une exposition Décoration
d'UNE PARTIE DU TOUT ET DU RIEN A BEN

A Historical and Geographical Event *(in telegram form)*

GENTLEMEN*:
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT?
CHARLES DE GAULLE

IN WHAT CAPACITY?
LA CEDILLE QUI SOURIT

MINISTERS OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY
CHAREES DE GAULLE

NO THANKS.
LA CEDILLE QUI SOURIT

DONT MENTION IT.
CHARLES DE GAULLE

From Donna's
stationery, before
she had to learn
the French word
for eggplant.

**A Poem for Donna
to Help Her Remember
the French Word
for Eggplant**

ô
oh
eau
haut
os
aux
au-bergine

Cur-
tains
And
other
hangings
Neck-
laces
Brace-
lets
Earrings
Beads
&
Stones
Jew-
els
Jewelry
+
more

How to Sleep Better

(Invented for the benefit of Robert who sleeps three hours
a night when he's lucky.)

One player completes "One thing that keeps me from sleeping is _____." The other without seeing what the first has written, completes "the way to overcome that is _____." For example: (Played by insomniac Robert and slug-a-bed George.) One thing that keeps me from sleeping is being too happy. The way to overcome that is to have two shots of cognac when you get in bed, then count your breaths while you breathe slowly.

One thing that keeps me from sleeping is imagining new works. The way to overcome that is to think about *mu* and *fuck*.

[In this variation, George asked Robert for a "noun" and an "action" respectively, with which to fill in the blanks he had left for these words.]

One thing that keeps me from sleeping is being in a sober stupor. The way to overcome that is to place your feet in *sauve*, eat *rabbit*, drink *red wine*, and think about *the sea*.

[Here George asked Robert for "a place" (which turned out to be Filliou's birth-place), "a food," "a drink," and "something," respectively, with which to fill in the blanks.]

One thing that keeps me from sleeping is getting excited about the prospect of drinking a cup of coffee and smoking a cigarette.

The way to overcome that is to stroke *Marianne* and have in mind a *tree*.

[Here Robert was asked to name "something or someone," and "something" respectively. The "someone" turned out to be his wife Marianne—as in his work, *I Was Telling Marianne*, published by Galerie der Spiegel, Cologne.]

One thing that keeps me from sleeping is daybreak. The way to avoid that is to avoid *hoping* but appreciate *blowing*; avoid *growth* but appreciate *listening*.

[In each case Robert was asked for a verb or noun with which to complete the (to him) unknown sentence.]

The Mystery Game

II

Three Contributions to the Art of Sculpture

- a. Take _____ (some material)
and shape it by _____ (an action)
- b. Take some _____ (a material)
and some _____ (a material)
and shape them by _____ (an action)
and _____ (an action)
- c. Take some _____ (a material)
and some _____ (a material)
and some _____ (a material)
and shape them by _____ (an action) ing,
_____ (an action) ing
and _____ (an action) ing

One-Minute Scenario

The President of France is giving the Legion of Honor to an attractive woman.

He kisses her on both cheeks, then more and more passionately he covers her face with kisses and holds her close to his body.

Performance Piece For A Lonely Person In A Public Place

When alone in a bar, a park, a subway, a train, etc. . . . performer chooses among the persons surrounding him (her) a person looking like what he (she) might look like 20, 30, or 40 years hence.

Then the actions of the chosen persons are closely watched by the performer who must concentrate on the idea that it is himself (herself) 20, 30, or 40 years hence that he (she) is observing.

For an older performer the procedure is reversed:

choose among the persons surrounding you a person looking like what you must have looked like 20, 30, or 40 years ago. Watch the actions of the chosen person closely, imagining that it is yourself as you were 20, 30 or 40 years ago you are looking at.

Robert Filliou

(Performed several times in Paris with Peter Cohen around 1960)

A letter to la Cédille qui sourit
—

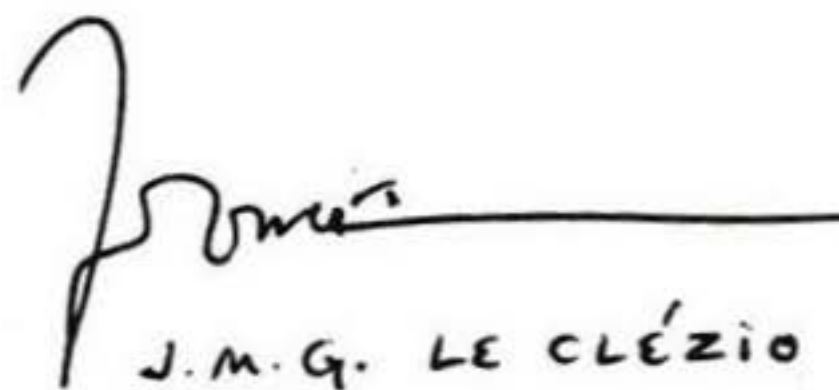
Thank you.

I found this on the ground,
at Catania (Sicily)
on the 31st of August 1965.

As you can see, the name of the
author is written on the manuscript:

Mascali.

Yours sincerely.


J.M.G. LE CLÉZIO

Maxali - 20.4.1964

Letterato.

21 Aprile. 84

Era un bel mattino di
primavera. La campagna
tutto intorno era verdeggian-
te. Il sole brillava nel cielo
azzurro. Uno stormo di ac-
ci volava nell'aria

limpida. Due giovani
fratelli, Romolo e Remo,
guidavano l'atrio pirato
da due bianchi d'uo-
li. Il solco s'apiva nella
terra umida, segnando
il confine fra una nuova
città, Roma

Anti-Nose-Dent Cream*

(from the Department of Scientific Research of La Cedille qui Sourit)



Before



After

* patent pending

One-Minute Scenario

A catholic priest officiates at a wedding.

The camera backs up from the masculine and feminine hands newly ringed.

The couple is in bed.

A Play

A Sun

A Stone

A Cloud

I

Sun, Stone: I am hot.

II

Cloud: I am raining.

III

Stone: (Unseeable particle breaks off, and joins the sand.)



One-Minute Scenario

A plane writes in the sky:

S H I T

Then adds

P T

while on the ground people looking up are scandalized.

Marcel Duchamp plays chess
and I play pick-up sticks.
— George Brecht

An “optimistic box” by Robert Filliou:
On the top of a small chess box is printed:
“You’re lucky if you can’t play chess . . .”
Inside the empty box is printed:
“You don’t have to feel obliged to imitate
Marcel Duchamp”

Laughing Game

1st player writes down the name of a person. 2nd player writes down an action.

(Example as played by George and Robert.)

The way to get a laugh out of Brigitte Bardot—is to move her an inch forward.

The way to get a laugh out of not getting a hard-on when you thought you might is—to look at your prick until it blurs.

The way to get a laugh out of Robert Filliou—is to laugh about him.

The way to get a laugh out of Lyndon Johnson—is to have him illustrated by Topor.*

The way to get a laugh out of George Brecht—is to think of him as a special kind of Roquefort cheese.

* One of our favorite French cartoonists.

Puzzle For A Printer

(For Díck Híggíns)

Use marbles instead of type.

Print the result in violet.

Using the same plate without cleaning or other preparations, print the plate in blue.

Change nothing, print the plate again in green.

Repeat in yellow, orange.

Red.

One-Minute Scenario

Soldiers' barracks.

A soldier blows reveille.

A window opens.

A famous actress in nightgown stretches her arms.

Answer to Ben Who Asked Me What Was New

Exercises 5 and 6.

Consider something "new." Call what is not "new" "old."

5. Take something which is "new" and find a way to consider it "old," adding it to what is already "old." Continue in this way until there is no more "new."

6. Take something which is "old" and find a way to consider it "new," adding it to what is already "new." Continue in this way until there is no more "old."

George Brecht

Not answered by Robert who included in his *Ample Food for Stupid Thought* the same question



One-Minute Scenario

In Russia, at the barbers'.
A man is having the hair of his fur hat trimmed.

Favorite Visitors Department

One day a French artist who makes sculptures out of frozen liquids arrived at The Cédille.

violet = vin rouge

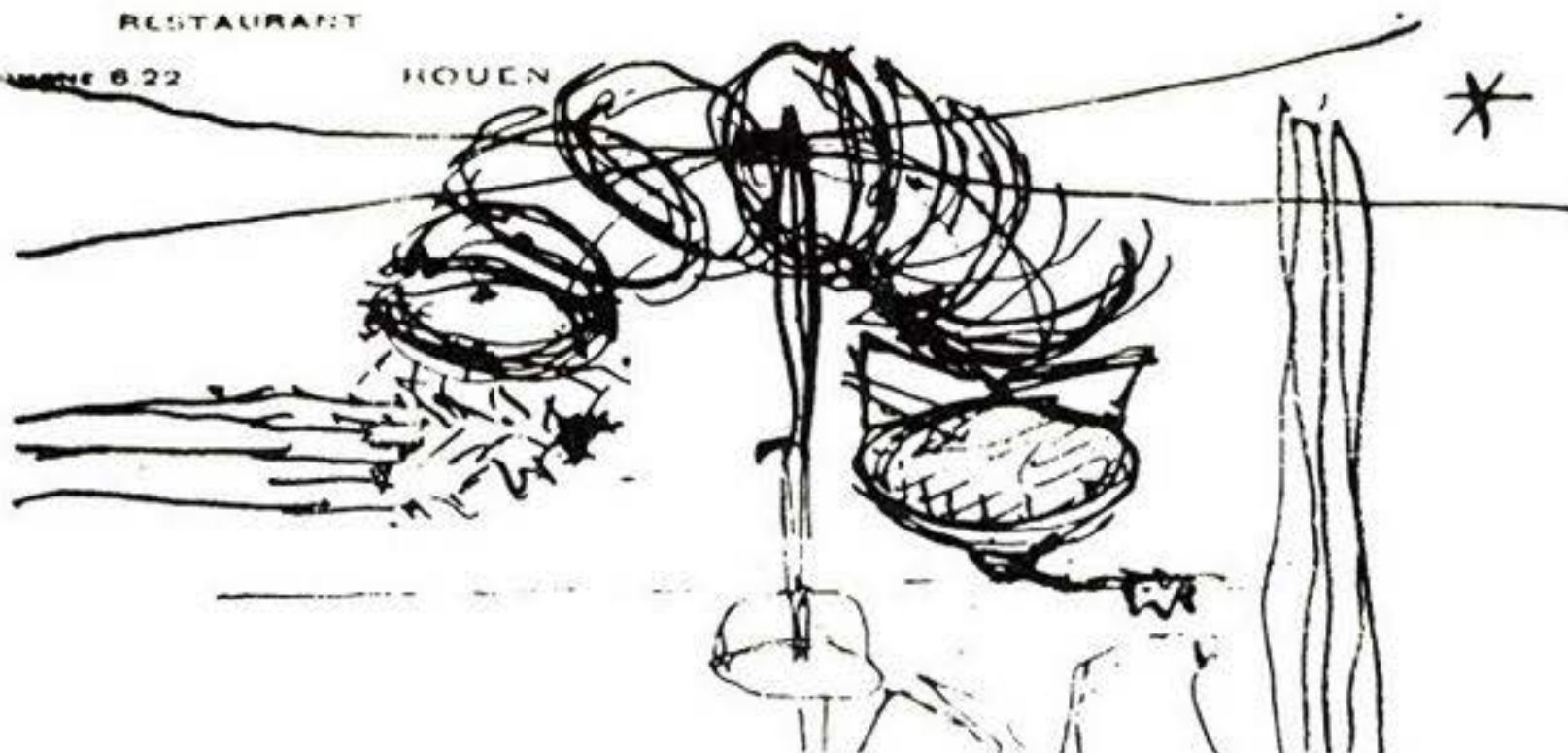
blue = some kind of liqueur

green = creme de menthe

yellow = pernod

etc.

He serves them, at the opening of his exhibitions, each person breaking off a piece of the drink he prefers.



* snail, exchanging his shell
for a spring*

* or vice versa

Example of A Joke Turned Into A Scenario (Robert's Favorite Joke)

A bedroom.

Nighttime.

A young man comes home.

Average white-collar type.

He takes off his clothes.

He takes a bottle of soda water out of the icebox.

He opens it, drinks half of it.

He turns off the lights.

In the shadow of the room, it is evident that he is
masturbating.

Then he lies with his arms out of the sheet, palms open.

He reaches for the bottle of soda water, takes a sip.

He turns on his side.

He whispers:

"Ah, women and champagne!"

He closes his eyes.

DEAR READER —

We intend to compile a book of **Favorite Jokes**. Before publishing them, we will turn them into small scenarios. We would like eventually to film, or have filmed, these jokes, an anonymous endless mine of some of the best wit and humor that men have created to deal the more effectively with their real preoccupations.

Would you please forward your favorite joke to:

La Cédille Qui Sourit

12 rue de May

Villefranche-sur-mer (A.M.)

France

Credit will be given to each contributor.

Thank you.





One-Minute Scenario

An airplane draws a bottle in the sky.
The bottle tips and water falls on the spectators below.

Department of Measurements

As Robert said to the buxom red-haired woman in Villefranche (la belle Hélène):

"I should think you've already had miles of pricks inside you."*

* Footnote to Staffeldt Report (see Appendix).

Appendix I

The Staffeldt Report

While in the United States (Nov. 10, 1966–Feb. 5, 1967) Marianne, Docteur ès Amours de l'Université de la Vie et chargée de Cours Erotiques au Collège de Partouzes et Autres Divertissements Licencieux de la Cédille Qui Sourit, conducted a survey of the Sexual Habits of the American Artist. She personally interviewed 3,510 female and male artists, and compiled the information graciously made available to her.

What follows is a summary of her findings.

TABLE I—DISTRIBUTION OF ARTISTS BY AGE GROUP

Age Group	Number of Artists	Percentage of Total	Cumulative Percentage
18 and 19	168	4.8%	4.8%
20 to 24	509	14.5	19.3
25 to 29	468	13.3	32.6
30 to 34	428	12.2	44.8
35 to 39	436	12.4	57.2
40 to 44	456	13.0	70.2
45 to 49	362	10.3	80.5
50 to 54	249	7.1	87.6
55 to 59	234	6.7	94.3
60 to 64	161	4.6	98.9
65 and over	39	1.1	100.0
TOTALS	3,510	100.0%	100.0%

Notes: 1. Total number of artists: 3,510.
2. Ages shown are those at time of interviews.
3. Includes student artists.
4. All percentages are to nearest one-tenth percent.

**TABLE II—NUMBER OF ACTIVE ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING
SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE YEARS 1900-1967 AND SHOWING NUMBER
OF ARTISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION**

Year	Number of Active Artists	Number of Artists per 100,000 Population
1900	11,800	16
1920	103,900	98
1930	214,300	175
1940	284,200	216
1950	375,000	249
1956	430,000	259
1958	460,000	268
1967	504,000	282

Notes: 1. All figures rounded off to nearest 100 or whole digit.
2. Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.
3. Does not include retired artists of whom there were an estimated 238,000 in the United States in 1967.

**TABLE III—INCIDENCE OF PRE-MARITAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY
AMONG ARTISTS (BY AGE GROUP)**

Age Group	Pre-marital Petting to Orgasm	Pre-marital Coitus (See note below)
18 and 19	86%	62%
20 to 24	92	64
25 to 29	93	66
30 to 34	95	68
35 to 39	97	71
40 to 44	97	73
45 to 49	98	74
50 to 54	98	73
55 to 59	98	74
60 to 64	97	72
Over 65	96%	69%

Notes: 1. Ages are those at time of interview.
2. Pre-marital coitus is defined as heterosexual vaginal intercourse.
3. All percentages shown are to nearest whole percent.

**TABLE IV—INCIDENCE OF EXTRA-MARITAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY REPORTED
BY MARRIED, SEPARATED, DIVORCED AND WIDOWED ARTISTS
(BY AGE GROUPS)**

Age Group	Extra-marital Coitus Among Artists with Histories of Pre-marital Coitus	Extra-marital Coitus Among Artists with No Histories of Pre-marital Coitus
18 and 19	9%	11%
20 to 24	22	24
25 to 29	23	27
30 to 34	26	29
35 to 39	28	31
40 to 44	29	33
45 to 49	31	36
50 to 54	29	31
55 to 59	27	26
60 to 64	24	23
65 and over	23%	21%

Notes: 1. Ages are those at time of interview.
2. All percentages to nearest whole percent.

**TABLE V—PRE-MARITAL AND EXTRA-MARITAL SEXUAL PARTNERS OF
ARTISTS ADMITTING TO PRE-MARITAL AND/OR EXTRA-MARITAL
COITAL EXPERIENCES**

Partners with whom Artists Engaged in Pre- or Extra-marital Sex Activities	Pre-marital Coitus	Extra-marital Coitus
Artists and/or dealers only	11%	21%
Critics only	13	6
Other than artists, dealers or critics only	28	24
Artists and/or dealers and critics only	6	8
Artists and/or dealers and other than critics only	9	15
Critics and other than artists and dealers only	12	9
All three categories	21	17
TOTALS	100%	100%

Note: All percentages shown are to nearest whole percent.

TABLE VI—NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PRE-MARITAL AND
EXTRA-MARITAL PARTNERS REPORTED BY ARTISTS

Number of Different Partners	Pre-marital Coitus	Extra-marital Coitus
One only (See note 1)	48%	34%
2 to 5	36	37
6 to 9	11	16
10 to 19	4	9
20 or more (See note 2)	1	4
TOTALS	100%	100%

Notes: 1. In pre-marital coitus column, 48% figure includes 26% of artists who had pre-marital intercourse only with the person they later married.
2. Maximum number of partners reported was stated as "at least 100 different men a year since I was 19" by a 26-year-old paintress. This figure, of course, may be exaggerated.
3. All percentages shown to nearest whole percent.

TABLE VII—INCIDENCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY AMONG ARTISTS

Artists Having:	AGE GROUPS				
	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 and over
NO homosexual contacts	87%	83%	81%	79%	81%
ONE homosexual contact	9	10	11	12	9
TWO to FIVE homosexual contacts	2	4	4	3	3
More than FIVE homosexual contacts	1	2	2	3	3
Characterizing themselves confirmed homosexuals	1	1	2	3	4
TOTALS	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes: 1. Readers might be interested to note that artists' homosexual incidence rate is generally well below levels reported by Kinsey. (See *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, W. B. Saunders & Co., 1953, Ch. 11.)
2. All percentages shown are to nearest whole percent.
3. Ages are those at time of interview.

TABLE VIII—DRUG HABITS OF ARTISTS

Population Where Artist Lives	Total Abstainers	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Very Heavy
Rural Areas	26%	37%	23%	9%	5%
Under 25,000	22	47	21	7	3
25,000 to 100,000	14	52	23	8	3
100,000 to 500,000	12	44	32	8	4
Over 500,000	11%	35%	41%	9%	4%

Notes: 1. Data is based on artists' own descriptions of amount of drug taking.
2. All percentages in each category total 100.
3. All percentages shown are to nearest whole percent.

TABLE IX—INCIDENCE OF GROUP SEX AMONG ARTISTS

Artists Having:

No group sex	92%
Occasional group sex	7
Permanent group sex	1
TOTAL	100%

Note: Readers might be interested to know that for the members of La Cédille Qui Sourit, the group sex incidence is 100%.

THE ARTIST AND HIS PECULIARITIES

Anal Eroticism: (Coitus Per Rectum) A total of 11 percent of artists interviewed stated that they had "tried" this form of sexual activity. Only four percent indicated that they engaged in it with any degree of frequency. Slightly more than one percent stated that they engaged in anal intercourse regularly or that their sexual feelings are fixated at the anal level.

Bestiality: Only seven artists out of the total of 3,510 interviewed admitted having had sexual contact with animals. One of these seven was himself an animal.

Ecouteurism and Coprophelia: Less than two percent of the artists stated that they derived sexual pleasure or excitation from hearing

or repeating descriptions of sexual acts or obscene words.

Exhibitionism: Some evidence of exhibitionistic tendencies was noted among 3,506 artists.

Fetishism: A total of 38 artists had marked fetishistic tendencies. Another 51 appeared to have some fetishistic tendencies.

Incest: A total of 63 artists admitted having engaged in sexual acts with blood relatives:

With their fathers/ mothers	27
With their brothers/ sisters	16
With their uncles/ aunts or first cousins	20

Kleptomania: Only four artists gave histories which indicated that they derived sexual pleasure or excitation from compulsive theft.

Masochism: Among the artists: 102 were clearly sexual masochists;

81 had pronounced masochistic tendencies.

Necrophilia: Only one artist stated that he had engaged in acts of necrophilia, but this was for an important retrospective. Four showed signs of having latent necrophiliac tendencies but denied ever having engaged in an overt act.

Pyromania: The compulsion to start fires often has a sexual basis. Only one artist admitted having committed overt pyromaniacal acts. However, 103 stated they had been sexually excited or had achieved orgasm by lighting and watching such "harmless" fires as bonfires, etc., at various times, often during periods of group or one-man shows.

Sadism: Among artists:

24 were clearly sexual sadists; 62 had pronounced sadistic tendencies.

Transvestism: Noted in 12 artists.

Tribadism: See discussion of homosexuality below.

Urolagnia: Noted in only two artists.

Voyeurism: Noted to some degree in nine percent of the artists.

Note: There is considerable overlapping in the above. Several artists engaged in or showed

tendencies toward more than one form of aberrant or peculiar sexual activity.

Homosexuality: As can be seen from Table VII, the percentage of artists stating they had engaged in homosexual activity rises as high as 21 percent (in the 45 to 54 age group). Comparable figures provided by Kinsey go to 27 percent.

Artists have excellent opportunities to form homosexual relationships. They share common interests, often go for appreciable periods without more than passing contact with members of the opposite sex and are in an environment in which sexual subjects are likely to be freely and frankly discussed.

However, as noted above, the incidence of homosexuality among artists is not inconsiderably lower than among the population at large.* Among the reasons which have been advanced to explain this disparity are the following:

1. The homosexual incidence rate rises with age. The average age of artists is below that of the average age of workers in general.

2. Artists tend to marry early.

3. Their artistic training, in which various aspects of sex are explained clinically and in detail, eliminates the desire for experimentation in what might be termed the "sexual unknown."

* Though homosexual "power" (autorité) may be greater. See Communisme, Anarchie, et Personnalisme, Emmanuel Mounier (*Editions du Seuil*, Paris, 1966), pp. 118-127. (George Brecht)



Robert and Marianne at their wedding party given by Eliane Fernandez, May 17, 1967. Wedding rings by Donna (matchboxes: hers, "ASSURANCE;" his, "THE COCK").

Historical Game

(homage to Pascal who knew that history would have been different had Cleopatra's nose been a bit longer.)

First Player begins a sentence involving historical characters and beginning by "Suppose." Second Player, without seeing what the first had written, completes the sentence.

(Example as played by George and Robert)

– Suppose Thomas Jefferson had been French – then Joan of Arc would have heard an entirely different voice.

– Suppose Talleyrand had invented television – then Sade would never have been imprisoned in the Bastille.

– Suppose Winston Churchill had played the guitar – then Mao would be an opera singer.

– Suppose Napoleon had been Russian – then the great Eskimo empire would still exist.

– Suppose the Chinese had never invented paper – then all history would be modern.

One-Minute Scenario

A party of prisoners in a prison yard.

They are playing *boules*.

One of the *boules* hits the prison wall and explodes.

The wall crumbles.

All the prisoners run away.

May 17, 1967

12 rue de May
Villefranche-sur-mer (AM)

Monsieur le Chef de Gare
Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français
2 rue Bréa
Nice-Ville

Dear Chief:

I am very sorry to bill the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français for the sum of 7.50 francs, as follows:

-3 tickets Beaulieu Villefranche-sur-mer at	
0.50 francs each:	1.50
-chicken	6.00
	<u>7.50</u>

Here are the facts:

On Friday, 12thth May 1967, I bought 3 tickets to Villefranche-sur-mer in the railroad station in Nice.

The tickets were for myself and my 2 friends, Marianne Staffeldt, the Danish dancer - she danced in front of Her Majesty Queen Juliana of Holland - and Robert Filliou, the famous French poet, author of Ample Food for Stupid Thought, and, with George Brecht, the American artist, of The German Word for Connerie.

The time, dear Chief, was 12.11.

An employee of the SNCF told us that our tickets did not give the right to take a train, but a bus standing outside: "Rush if you don't want to miss it", he said.

We rushed, entered the bus after showing our tickets to the driver, and then stood up, ~~as~~ the bus was full.

Then the bus left.

Having arrived at Villefranche-sur-mer, we were surprised that the bus did not stop.

"Stop, please, stop!" we shouted to the driver.

The driver didn't answer. The bus number is 162.

But a very strange man with dark glasses, and no uniform of the SNCF, told the driver to keep driving and told us we couldn't stop before Beaulieu. We were very surprised and a bit frightened, because this man was very strange. For instance, going down avenue Jean Médecin, in Nice, this very same man stood up all at once and kept knocking on the door shouting "Jacqueline, Jacqueline". Then he sat down again.

So we were a bit frightened, not understanding French very well - except for M. Filliou, whom Monsieur Raymond Queneau calls the greatest French poet since Raymond Queneau - and we thought perhaps this man was crazy.

Imagine, dear chief, ^GHe had no uniform, and he spoke wildly, saying that this was an express bus, while we could read a sign inside the bus (on the windshield) that said "omnibus".

Anyway we got off in Beaulieu, and M. Filliou wanted to go to the police to complain of "tentative d'enlèvement et séquestration volontaire".

But Miss Staffeldt and I didn't want to lose any time ^{as} ~~since~~ my husband George Brecht was waiting for us in Villefranche-sur-mer, having cooked a chicken for us all.

So many people getting off in Beaulieu sympathized with us and said: "Of course they should have stopped the bus, but that's the way it is, the French people are very rude to foreigners and that's why tourists don't come to the Riviera anymore". And then they kindly showed us where to take a bus back to Villefranche. It cost us 50 centimes each.

By 13.30 we were back in Villefranche. But meanwhile the chicken had burned and was uneatable.

That is why I have had the honor of writing you this complaint. The SNCF can repay me in dollars if it cares.

Sincerely yours,

Donna Jo Brewer

PS: I have enclosed all tickets concerned in the above complaint.

Conversations

Some persons to talk to are decided upon. One of the players writes on a piece of paper what he would ask each person. Second player writes down what each person would answer. Then questions and answers are matched.

(Example, as played by George and Robert)

At the grocery store: "I'd like a bottle of dry white wine."
"Sure, but my wife's already left."

At the druggist: "What costs 43 cents?" "We don't carry rubber goods."

At the barber's: "Make me a package of the hair lying on the floor." "The thought never came to me."

At the tobacconist's: "Please call over Mister Gauloise."
"No, I piss sitting down."

At your house: "Can you deliver me ten chairs tomorrow morning?" "Come back tomorrow, please."

Rejected Projects Division

1– Suggested by George to Daniel Spoerri who did not accept it for his edition MAT:

A sentence published as a series of letters cast in various metals (gold, lead, iron, etc. . . .).

Subscribers can buy individual letters, but in order to find out what the sentence is they must get in touch with other subscribers.

2 – Bed sheets upon which "Fuck the French" is printed in large letters, a project of Robert's.

No one seems interested in realizing the idea.

3 – "No-Book." Rejected by Dick Higgins for this volume for reasons of space.

4 – Torpedoing the Springfield* with Coca-Cola. Rejected by us (Robert and George).***

* U.S. Admiral's flagship which used to dock in Villefranche before De Gaulle asserted his prerogatives.**

** Economic disaster for the girls in the VF bars, but not much for others since the sailors always imported their white bread from Germany, their pickles from the States, etc.

***This idea may have been suggested by Joe Pfeuffer, while helping to transform the former radio and TV repair into La Cédille.

The Game of Objects

One player writes "Take _____" and names one or more objects. The other, without knowing what the first has written, describes actions to be done with objects.

For example, as played by George and Robert.

Take 64 black cubes with an indentation on each of a number of sides—and look at them without blinking.

Take 17 objects made of wood—and paint them white under a shower.

Take 15 chairs—and turn your back to the nearest.

Take ten materials soluble in water, and ten materials soluble in oil—why, they're beautiful!

Take a number of lights—now can you undo what you've done?

Take any 5 things you would be willing to eat or drink—something is missing you'll find elsewhere.

Take the thing nearest you—where did you find it?

Take the thing nearest you that you like—and throw it as far away as you can.

Take the thing nearest you that you don't care for—and wire it to Daniel Spoerri.

Take all the things you can find which are too "something" (for example, too old, too new, too nostalgic, too hurtful, etc.), and touch them until they feel different.

Take any five things you have said at different times—and say oh, say ah, say oh la la. This is the beginning of its translation into French.

Take any 3 things you have never been able to do (for example, eat fish, build a skyscraper, make a poem, etc.) and apply the principles of their making to your life.

Take the next 3 occurrences or objects that strike you—and invent a new game.*

* a realization of this instruction (by George Brecht) :

Take *a full length mirror* and build a transparent box in front of it. Add auxiliary equipment capable of filling the box with and emptying the box of smoke.

With the box empty look into the mirror, and discover in the mirror image an object or event characterized by "*good taste*." Keep watching and fill the box with smoke.

Think of what you have seen in terms of "good taste," and after a pause (when you are ready to stop thinking, for example), begin emptying the box of smoke.

Repeat using "*bad taste*" in place of "good taste."

March, 20,
1966

(ansd 5 IV)

Dear George and Donna;

THINK IT'S POSSIBLE

I got your letter and I think your idea for selling the perfume at the cedille is a Wonderful, Pleasant, Marvelous and EXCITING idea!!



Thank you so much for the books, magazines and the matchboxes. The science fiction book called ^{THE DAY} "It rained forever" I thought was very, very strange. In answer to your letter as to how many bottles I can make, there are two problems: one; it is hard to get pure alcohol here, two; (I strongly recommend it be made in small bottles), getting a large quantity (20-30) of bottles at this time, **BUT**, as soon as I have overcome these problems I will work on it immediately. As to the price, it must be enough to make people realize they aren't buying 16¢ store toilet water, but low enough so the "tourists" can buy it. (Maybe you can talk this over) I feel it should be 1.50 OR (1.00) →

②

for a small amount. Mommy was thinking of giving it
a name similar to the shop, but said no. New data:

-G.T.O. = Gran Turismo O. molagato

"Venus meets

THE SON OF = A²/₂ BOMB!
HIMSELF"

1 = POKER CHIP

ENCLOSED

~~Here~~ are some funny things we clipped out of mags.

HERE ARE A COUPLE 'TOONS OF MY OWN

OK	LOOK	LOOK	LOOK	LOOK	LOOK	LOOK ZZZZZZ	LOOK
----	------	------	------	------	------	----------------	------

I hope you like the idea of having my perfume
at the shop.

Love to all of you, you, donna,
Robert, marianne and marcell.

oops again!

to marcell: merci, pour la lettre. Eric

One-Minute Scenario

A man is holding a gun to his ear.

He pulls the trigger.

He takes the gun away from his ear.

At the end of the gun is a cotton-swab released by the trigger.

from The Cedilla Cookbook

One new dish and one new dessert for our friend Daniel
"le Chef" Spoerri.

Main dish:

6 pounds of turnips
1 clove
9 gallons of water

Put the water on to boil.

Push the clove into one of the turnips.

Throw the 6 pounds of turnips into the boiling water.

Dessert:

an apple pie
an olive

Push the olive into the apple pie

Serves:

Daniel, Kichka and 15 Greek guests on the island of Simi.

The Mystery Game

III

A Contribution to the Art of Music.

Since Music has to do with _____ (anything) _____

then if you take a(n) _____ (anything) _____

and a(n) _____ (anything) _____

and put them together
you will get music.

Repeat four more times.

One-Minute Scenario

A couple by the beach.

They are making a huge paper boat from newspapers.

Then they launch it, climb aboard and sail away.

George Bract

VRAI OU FAUX ?

réponses page 14.

1. A Babylone, une femme qui savait nager pouvait tromper impunément son mari.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
2. Les Congés-payés ont été institués en 1936.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
3. Une femme à barbe a régné sur l'Egypte des Pharaons.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
4. Dans la Chine antique, un fils vraiment royal faisait à son père l'honneur de le manger.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
5. Ce sont les Espagnols, au temps du bas-empire ro- main, qui ont inventé la course de taureaux.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
6. Néron a épousé un homme en troisième nocces.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
7. Charlemagne a été couron- né par le pape empereur d'Occident à Rome en l'an 800.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
8. La guerre de Cent ans a éclaté pour une question de sacs de laine.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
9. Quand ils faisaient la guerre, les Aztèques donnaient des armes à leurs adver- saires et s'interdisaient de les tuer.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
10. Chez les Inca, plus une jeune fille avait eu d'a- mants, plus elle avait de chances de faire un beau mariage.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
11. Lucrèce Borgia n'a mené une vie de débauche que parce qu'elle était une fille soumise.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
12. Newton découvrit la gravi- tation universelle en voyant tomber une pomme.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
13. Louis XV a eu 200 enfants.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
14. Si les Français de France avaient eu autant d'enfants que les Français du Cana- da, la France compterait aujourd'hui plus de deux milliards d'habitants.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX
15. Avant 1914, un Français ne souscrivait pas de déclai- ration de revenus.	☒ VRAI	☐ FAUX

Robert Fillion

Total : vrai et faux

Pedometric Game

To be played by an odd number of people.

Each player writes on a slip of paper: "most" or "least," and the slips are dropped into a sealed container held by a neutral party.

Each person adds something to the "pot."

Each player gets a pedometer which he is to wear for an hour, a day, a week, a month, etc. (as agreed upon).

The players all meet at the appointed time, and open the container. The player who has walked the most (or the least, according to the preponderance of slips) wins the pot.

Favorite Visitors Department

One day there came to the Cédille an artist who makes drawings with ink containing special salts (undisclosed) which make sounds when held near a radio tuned in between stations.

One-Minute Scenario

A huge wall is being built by workers.

The camera moves to the other end.

There the wall is being pulled down by other workers as fast as it is built.

Pilot Project for Marriage License Reform

Marriage licenses must be renewed every 1 or 2 or so years.

If one is not renewed, it is cancelled.

It is very difficult to obtain.

Meanwhile the couple can have a learning permit: it would be the equivalent of engagement.

Once the marriage license is applied for, instead of a blood test, an expert checks the performance capability of the couple.

Such an expert might be E.W., the homebreaker.

He might provide the norm of performance-capability.

Let us call this norm HBI (homebreaking index).

HBI is the relationship between the size (or volume) of E.W.'s prick and the amount of applicant's fiancée's pleasure.

LEARNING PERMIT CAN BE APPLIED FOR

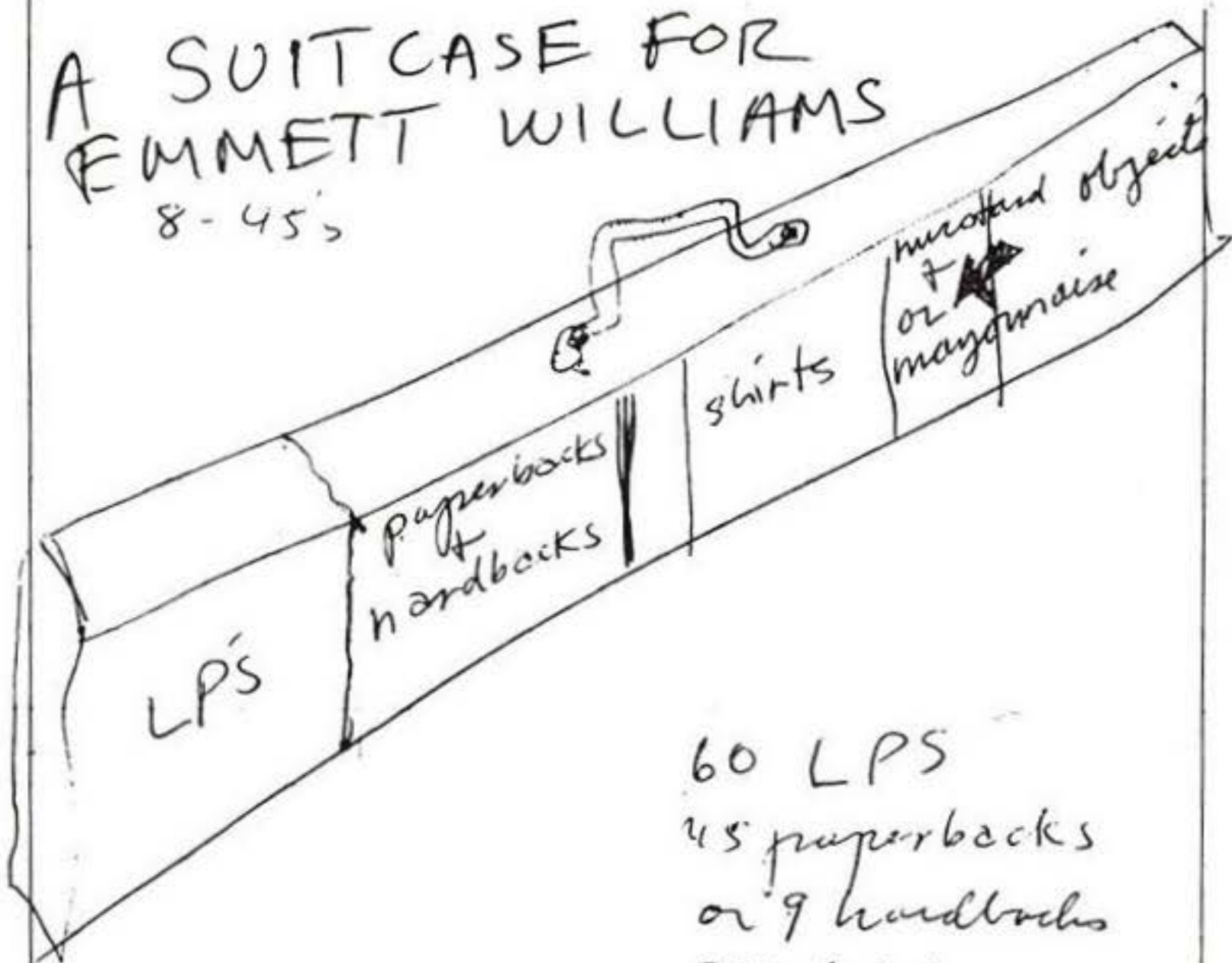
FROM 9 TO 99 YEARS

WINDOW A (MIDNIGHT TO 9 A.M.)

SCHOOL DAYS EXCEPTED

MARRIAGE LICENSE FROM \$11 TO \$250

A SUITCASE FOR EMMETT WILLIAMS 8-45's

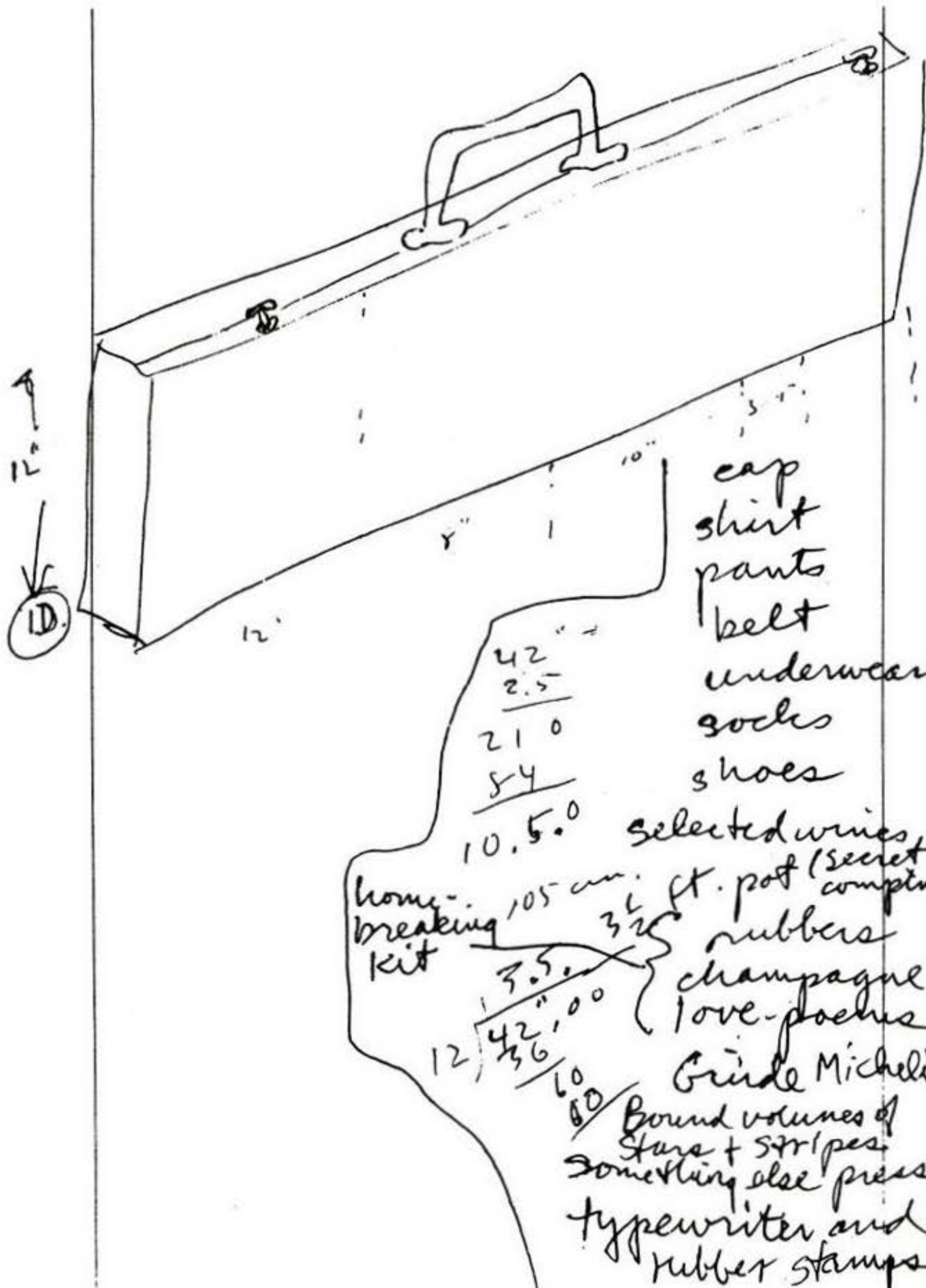


- 60 LPS
- 45 paperbacks
or 9 hardbacks
- 37 shirts
- 6 bottles of mustard
- 12 bottles of mayonnaise
- 37 miscellaneous
objects

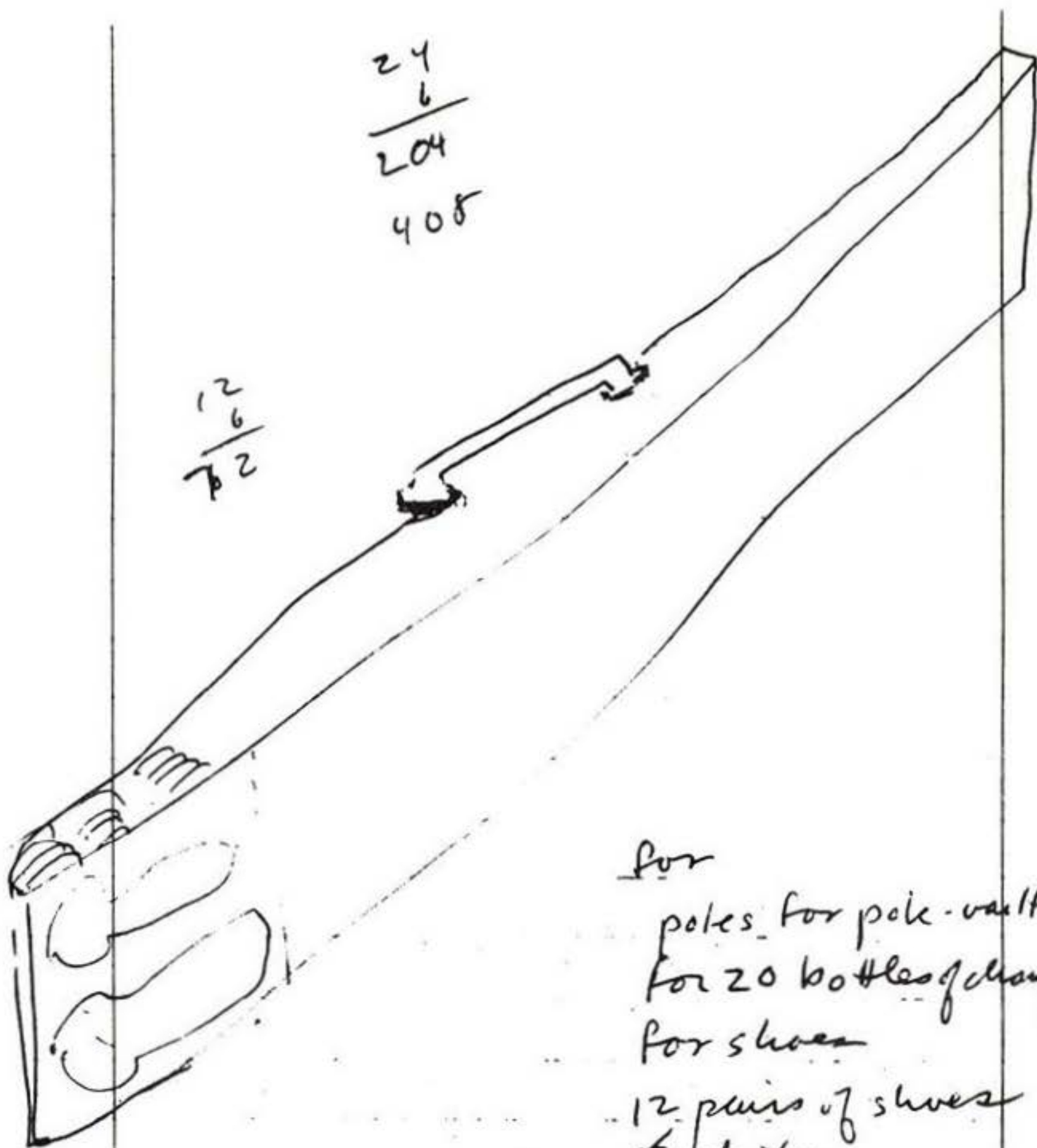
Service de la
Recherche
Amicale
(transport
Division)

Section of
Poetic Economics
(can
be
checked
at
right
at P.R.
station)

→ how to carry emmett
williams.



$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ 6 \\ \hline 204 \\ 408 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ 6 \\ \hline 72 \end{array}$$


for

poles for pole-vaulting
for 20 bottles of champagne
for shoes

12 pairs of shoes

12 dishes

24

~~36~~ saucers

~~48~~

204 or 408 saucers
regular or demi-tasse
72 pairs of socks
40 shirts, or 39 shirts
and 9 stacks of letter
paper or 38 shirts
and 8 stacks of letter
paper or 45

One-Minute Scenario

A man cooking his meal.
The camera backs up.
He is in the middle of a supermarket.

The Mystery Game

V

A Contribution to the Art of Poetry.

Since Poetry is _____ (anything) _____

then by writing down how you feel about _____

and _____

you can make a poem.

If we can help you with your poem, or you can help us with ours, write to:



**Lettre de notre correspondant pour la
providence: George Brecht**

Hi Daniel—Did you get our interview with John Masturs? I liked your letter a lot but I prefer catching flies to squashing them. I think it is harder to catch a fly than to squash one (but that doesn't enter into it). To catch a fly you move your hand up directly behind the fly (since flies can't see behind them, altho they can see all around). When your hand is about two hands-spans behind the fly, you sweep your hand forward against the table, or whatever the fly is resting on, closing your hand just in time to catch the fly. You can then walk a few kilometers and give your fly to a neighbor, or put him in a cage and have him as a pet, teach him to talk a selected language (or an unselected one), train him to chase away mosquitoes, etc.

I enclose some definitions for your paper:

POISON: an antidote for health foods

PAINT: material used by artists to correct the uniformity of canvas

HOUSES: objects for inserting large chunks of air into rainfall

AIR: material added to empty vessels to keep them from being empty

PAPER: material placed at the end of pens, pencils, etc., so you can see what you're writing

HAIR: perennial crop harvested by barbers for carpeting

SHOE: a small portable rug

GARLIC: instrument for generating noses

AUTOMOBILE: machine for staying in the same place until your destination catches up with you

Robert & Marianne left for NYC last week. A card today says Marianne has not stopped laughing since she arrived. I guess she's right—to enjoy New York you need a sense of humor.

PLEASE PLACE IN CLASSIFIED SECTION, UNDER HELP WANTED:

English woman seeks.

News from Provence:

Alison Knowles and Dick Higgins passed through Villefranche-sur-Mer on their way from Prague to London. During their stay Dick performed Act 30 of his "Clown's Way" by fracturing or dislocating some thirteen bones of his right forearm. This was followed by the Filliou-almost-going-to-London-in-Dick's-place-event, and by several here-we-are-and-it-isn't-even-visiting-hours events at Dick's bedside.

The previous evening had seen Alison's "Procession," starting at the café Provence in Nice, with discreet instructions for deciding on something to do with one's hands, while walking in a line.

The procession was the second evening of a two-week series of exhibitions, performances, and uncategorizables organized by some Nice activists under the title "LE LITRE DE 'VAR SUPERIEUR' ROUGE COUTE 1 F 60," which included as well an exhibition at Galerie A, a tour of 13 bars in Vieux Nice with Francis Merino, and a concert of contemporary piano music performed by Robert Erebo and Robert Bozzi.

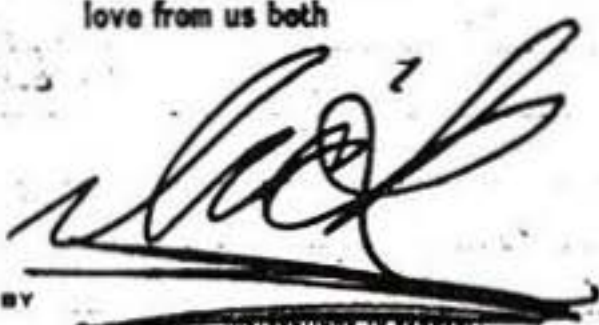
Mysterious Disappearances: Serge Oldenbourg went to Prague last month to take part in the series of performances

of avant-garde work there and never came back. Among other stories circulating is one which says he was tossed in prison for losing his passport. His address is SEHR 3/101, Praha 10, Tchechoslovakie.*

Love and
carrots till
next time,
George

Reprinted from Daniel Spoerri's
Le Petit Colosse de SIMI
The Nothing Else Review
Winter 1966-67

* Not the correct address which does appear somewhere in this collection under Favorite Letters to the Cedilla.

NOTE D-GRAM	
SOMETHING ELSE PRESS, INC.	
160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010 • PHONE 212 WA 9-2699	
MESSAGE	REPLY
TO [george robert donna JJ marianne]	DATE
DATE July 27	
dear dear dear dear	
here's our schedule as it looks now can we stay with you at villefranche is a performance situation possible	
oh oh WHAT A FALL IT WILL SURELY BE oh oh	
love from us both	
	
BY	SIGNED
INSTRUCTIONS TO ADDRESSEE	
1. KEEP YELLOW COPY. 2. SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CASH ON HANDY. 3. WRITE REPLY. 4. DETACH STUB, KEEP PINK COPY, RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER.	

19 Quantities of Time

for G.B.H.*

a heater of time
a cigarette of time
a window of time
some soups of time
now I go to the bathroom
why am I leaving?
the sweet orange
the pencil
covers turned back
la lune dans le ciel (the clouds seen twice)
fireworks underground
the hair
the fingernail's containing
everyone's wish
it was not the moon, it was a street light
the re-wired marquee
moldy noodles
photograph
a tack in my shoe

George Brecht

* I don't remember who or what G.B.H. was. But it probably relates to James Waring, who once made a lot of soups.

Exposition

Qui n'a pas son biberon de LSD?

Quand les artistes veulent donner des idées au père Noël, cela fait un joyeux bric-à-brac. On y trouve des cravates en plexiglas, des trous portatifs, des poèmes à jeter au panier, un jeu d'échecs fait avec des fraises de dentiste, un biberon magique au LSD. . . . Tout cela, et bien d'autres choses, est exposé à la galerie Jacqueline Ranson sous le titre de "Offerings inattendus." Le canular voisine avec l'invention poétique, le macabre avec l'inutile. Mais ce n'est pas cher: de 30 à 300 Francs.

L'idée est partie de La Cédille qui sourit, entreprise dont l'enseigne se balance, dans une ruelle de Villefranche-sur-Mer, au-dessus d'une échoppe jaune canari. Ce magasin est le premier Centre international de Création permanente. Promoteurs: l'Américain George Brecht et le Français Robert Filliou. Poètes, musiciens, peintres, hommes de théâtre, ils ont 40 ans tous les deux.

Ils se sont rencontrés pour la première fois à New York, au célèbre "Café au gogo" qui, une fois par semaine donne un spectacle expérimental. George Brecht y produisait des "events," qui sont aux "happenings" ce que la musique de chambre est au grand orchestre. PRELUDE. Mais la rencontre newyorkaise de Brecht et de Filliou n'était qu'un prélude. Quelques années plus tard, ils unirent leur destin en fondant La Cédille qui Sourit. Le but de l'entreprise est d'étendre l'imagination dans tous les domaines, et d'abattre les frontières entre les différentes formes d'art. Les promoteurs se proposent d'aider les artistes à inventer des jeux nouveaux et à matérialiser toutes leurs idées les plus "folles."

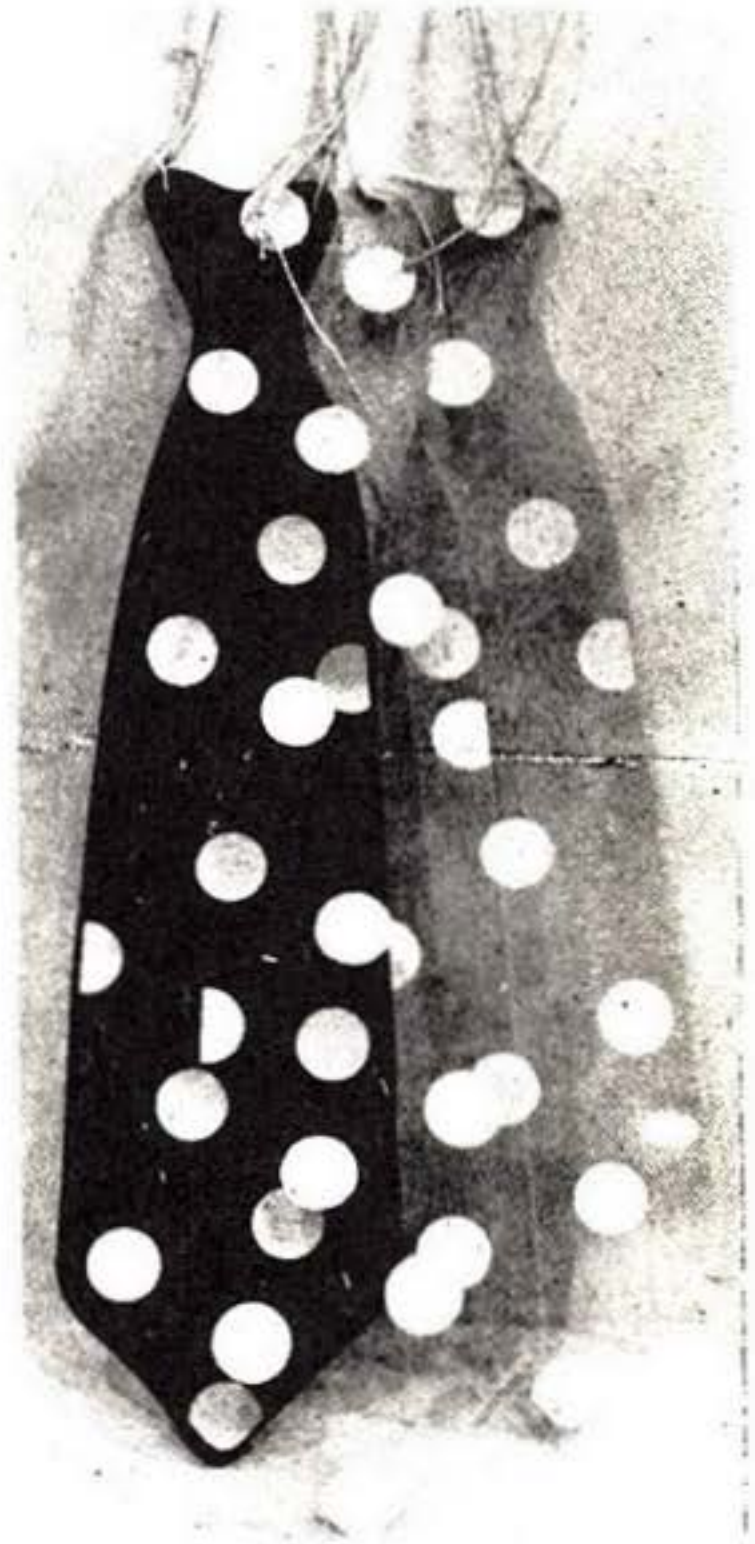
De Villefranche, Brecht et Filliou sont "montés" avec les oeuvres d'une quinzaine d'artistes: Arman, Ben, Spoorri, Maurice Henry. . . . Etoffé par une soixantaine de peintres venus d'autres horizons, l'exposition de la galerie Ranson ne reflète pas exactement l'esprit de La Cédille. Plus farfelus, les cadeaux sont souvent plus proches du gadget que de la poésie visuelle. Mais la volonté de sortir des cadres conventionnels reste une idée intéressante.

OTTO HAHN

Lourdes Castro : *Des cravates impudiques (ci-contre).*

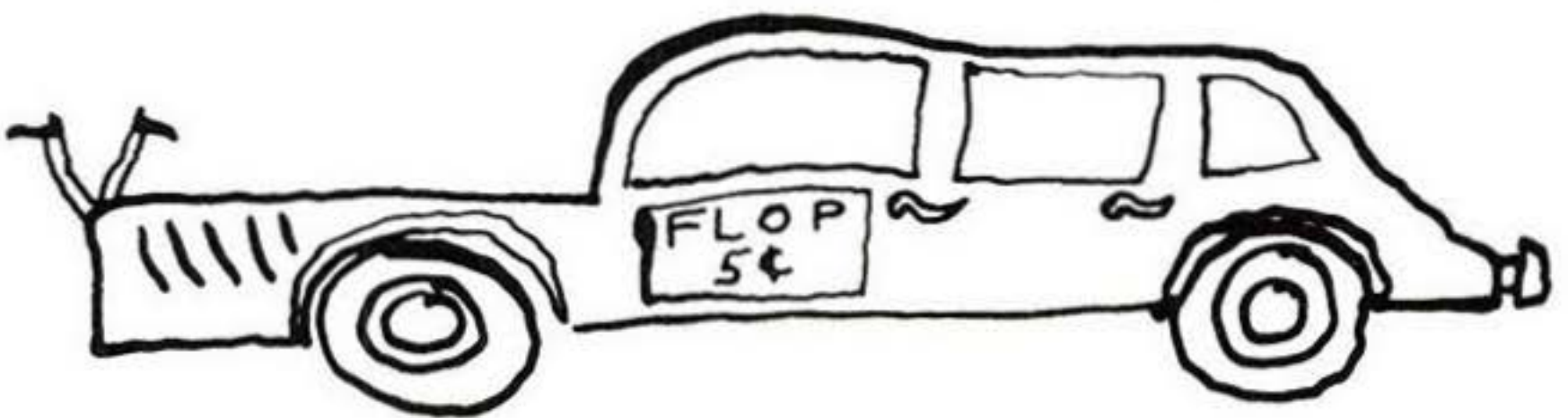
Criton : *Il faut toujours avoir des petits doigts chez soi (ci-dessous).*

Ben : *Pandore est dedans (en bas, à droite).*



One-Minute Scenario

A man cannot get his car started.
Finally he goes out and lifts up the hood.
Inside the hood there is another man, sleeping.



The Heading Got Lost

Everyone chooses a place in the room.

There are a number of ping pong balls of different colors:

black

violet

blue

green

yellow

orange

red

white

etc. . . . (in betweenings).

Everyone tosses his ball to the ceiling.

A point in the room is (or has been) decided upon.

Someone gains something (or loses).

An Anecdote from Donna about Swimming on the Coast of Oregon Where the Undertow is very Strong

Swimming on the coast of Oregon is sometimes difficult.

Once an expert swimmer went to swim in the ocean.

As a precaution he tied a rope around his waist and asked a friend on the beach to hold the other end.

As the swimmer was taken by a current, the friend began to be carried into the sea, and let go the rope.

Several weeks later, the body of the expert swimmer was recovered.

A Bag of Beads*

500 beads each with a word stamped on it.

Each player takes a bead at random from the bag and adds it to a knotted string.

When the string is finished (according to a pre-determined limit—perhaps 3 beads per player or some such), a sense for the sentence so prepared is decided (perhaps by all the players, perhaps by a neutral referee or neutral referees) and the player who has contributed most (or least) to the meaning of the sentence gets the pot.

The pot may consist of money, objects, art works. . . .

* We don't understand the game (Robert, George, Emmett).

Contributions to the Well-Being of the Something Else Press

First player writes down some activity that the Something Else Press could undertake. Second player, without seeing what the first has written, writes down what the consequences of that activity might be.

For example: (played by Robert and George)

Start printing hundred dollar notes—then *anyone* could stand on his head.

Come to Villefranche next summer and old ladies can have babies.

Create an Emmett Williams Order of Merit—then trains will not be on time and no one will care.

Reprint all of Alphonse Allais—then no contraceptives will be necessary.

Make Marcelle* your co-editor—and all Russians will speak French, all Frenchmen English, and all adults pig-latin.

Have Donna bind your books with beads—then coffee will always (or never) taste good.

Give ample food for intelligent thought and China will join the United Nations, and the United Nations will join wood.

* Marianne and Robert's daughter, now 6½, who keeps telling me only food is "bon," everything else is "bien." I am making an effort to believe her even though she always says "pourquoi" when she means "parce-que."—George

SCANDALE A LA COUR D'ANGLETERRE

Le ministre Brown a-t-il enlacé la princesse Margaret ?

LONDRES. — « George Brown fait scandale au palais », titrait hier matin, en première page, sur trois colonnes, le « Sunday Telegraph ».

Selon le journal, le chef du Foreign Office aurait été, lors de la réception donnée au palais de Buckingham, mardi soir, en l'honneur du roi Fayçal d'Arabie Séoudite, l'auteur d'un esclandre qui a semé la consternation à la cour et dans les milieux diplomatiques.

Dans un moment d'abandon, M. George Brown aurait glissé affectueusement son bras au-

tour de la taille de la princesse Margaret. Une autre lady ayant manifesté sa stupéfaction devant tant d'audace, le chef de la diplomatie britannique en aurait profité pour lui donner également une « étreinte folâtre ». Le duc d'Edimbourg chercha, dit-on, à orienter l'intérêt de M. Brown dans une autre voie, mais sans succès.

12 rue de May
Villefranche-sur-Mer
19 May 1967

The Hon. George Brown
The Foreign Ministry
London, England

Dear Mr. Brown:

We have the honor to inform you that in accord with the recent notice, a copy of which we enclose, regarding one of your recent exploits, you have been accorded the annual "Prix Folâtre de la Cédille qui sourit" for the year 1967.

This prize, which we enclose, consists, as you will note, of a feather, with which, we hope, you will continue this sort of activity which has tickled us so much.

pour



et par ordre: Robert Florent Filliou
Robert Florent Filliou



Letter to the Honorable George Brown with a copy of the original article we found which you can either include as is and/or translate. I prefer as is. The older I get the more I hold everyone in the world responsible for knowing every language in the world. Add to these documents a photo, or drawing perhaps, by Dorothy [Iannone] of a feather.

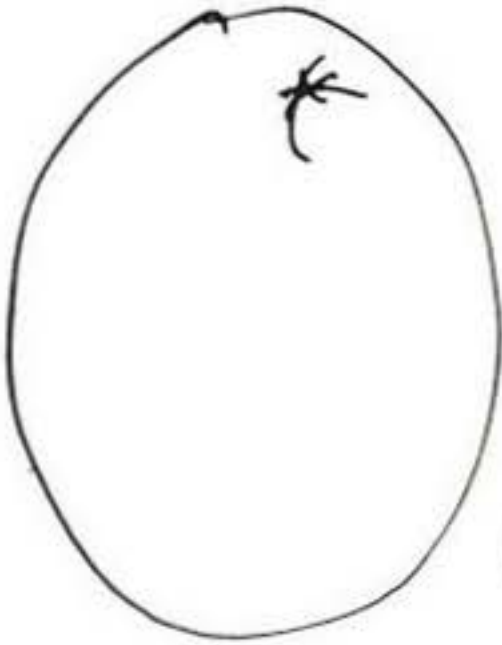
George

1965
JANUARY

7

from 1965
(1965 calendar)
Today

THURSDAY



RANGE

re-invented

& dis-invented

glass.



Bottle



Funnel



Bracelet



glass

Bottle dis-invented

Cedilla that Smiles*

"The Cedilla That Smiles" is the joint undertaking of Robert Filliou and George Brecht. Set up a year ago at Villefranche-sur-mer, it is a center of ideas, a search, a cooperative attempt among artists or anyone else with an idea to work out, especially in the less conventionally recognized areas.

Until now the Cedilla has brought forth inventions and disinventions, games, puzzles, a book of games and other things as yet indescribable (soon to be published in the United States),† suspense-poems ("dispatched by slow freight" in separate installments), and an essay on research into the word "connerie" in German (published in Germany in the "Edition Et" series).

We have asked a number of artists to make for The Cedilla objects one could give to friends as presents, not in the form of small versions of their regular work but rather the kinds of things it would be difficult to make available by conventional means. Arman, for example, made a "demi-livre," a half-book, weighing exactly a "demi-livre," 250 grams; Topor a page from a calendar on which he wrote "jour vecu"; Andrée Thoreau a book called "Sixty Times Victor Hugo," each of whose 30 pages is a five-franc note.§

In October Jacqueline Ranson invited us to exhibit the Cedilla in Paris. We thank all the artists who helped us and worked toward its presentation here. Even if all the things are not personally to our taste, it seems to us that to give, in an unexpected manner, the possibility to do "something else" is an interesting idea. It is a kind of jump into the unknown, or almost, an opportunity we owe to Jacqueline Ranson.

* Statement for "La Cédille à Paris."

† That's this one.

§ Which has a portrait of Victor Hugo on both sides.

edition et, 1966—no. 1/6-7

connerie?

Question proposed by:

George Brecht

La Cédille qui Sourit

Department of Etymologic Questions

(La Cédille qui Sourit questions everything which has or has not been asserted.)

If I'm wrong,
nothing is lost.
If I'm right,
well we'll see . . .

The German Word for "Connerie"

Does "spotten"¹ mean connerie?

No, that means "fishing."

Does "Handarbeit"² mean connerie?

Nearly, but that word isn't strong enough.

Does "Ferkel"³ mean connerie?

In the fifteenth century it did.

Does "Angel"⁴ mean connerie?

No, that means "canary."

Does "Vetter"⁵ mean connerie?

¹ mocking

² manual work

³ piglet

⁴ door-hinge or fish-hook

⁵ cousin

That's it!

(Our cousins, the Germans.)

The book-dealer George Filloux (Quai Conti, Paris—across the street from l'Hôtel de la Monnaie) once wrote "A Short Monograph on Connerie."

I gave a copy of this book to Mr. Albred Fabri (Trajanstrasse 10, Cologne), who has a profound understanding of the French language. On the title page George Filloux had written for Mr. Fabri the question: "How does one say 'connerie' in German?"

Albred answered him that he didn't know, and that it was a gap that needed filling, since his compatriots were "masters in conneries."

We therefore suggest that for further details in this matter, you inquire of cousin Filloux or friend Fabri.

Robert Filliou

La Cédille qui Sourit

Department of Etymologic Answers

(La Cédille qui Sourit answers all questions which have or have not been posed.)



One-Minute Scenario

A dignified man walks ponderously through the vaults of a bank.

He arrives at a strong box.

He dials the combination and opens it.

Inside there is his lunch-box.

One-Minute Scenario

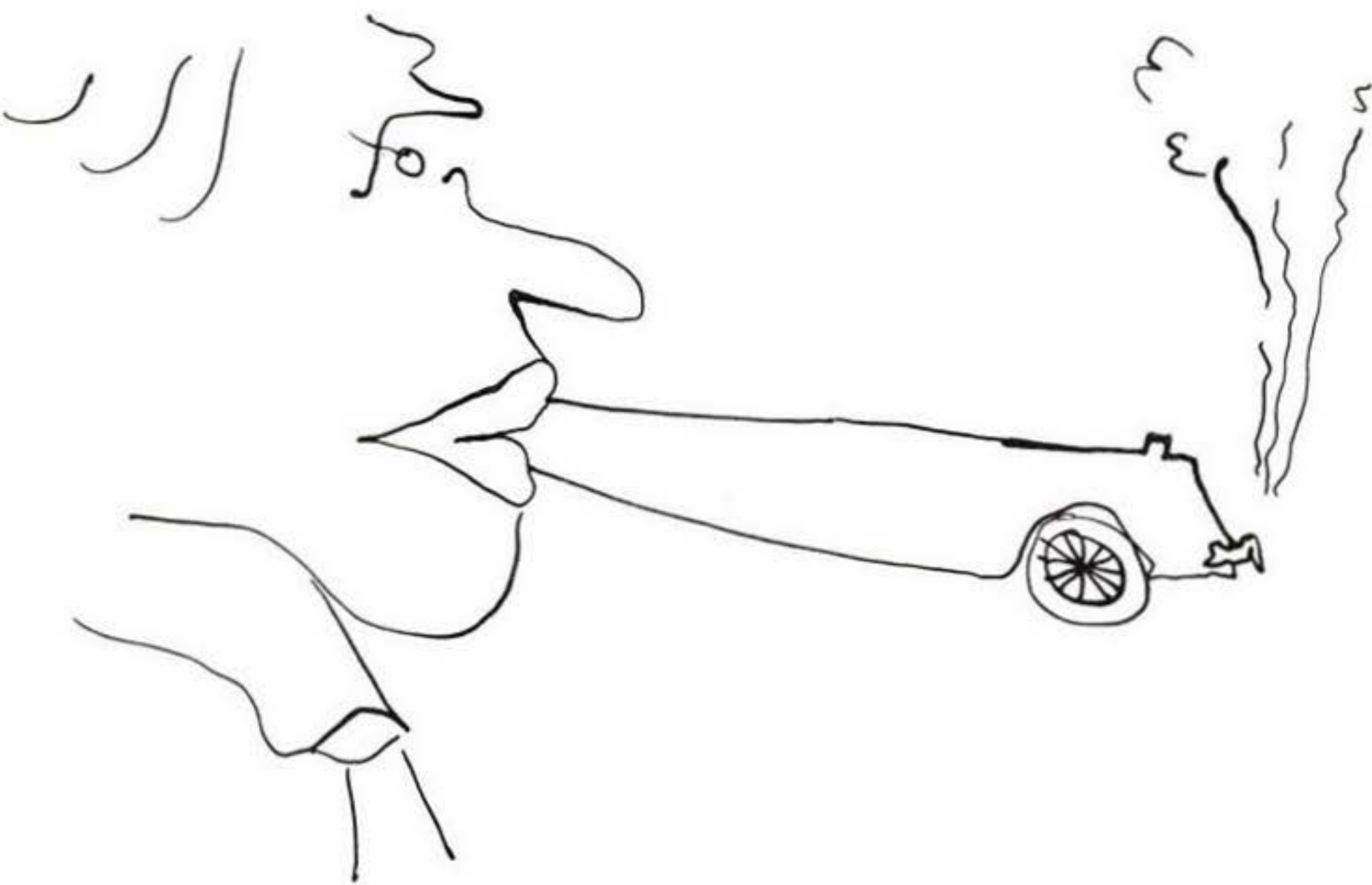
A man at the dentist's

He is having a tooth filled.

When the dentist is through, the man takes out his dental plate, admires the filling, and goes out.

Favorite Visitors Department

One day there came to the Cédille a visitor with cigarettes packed with various treated tobaccos. When smoked, they produce images similar to those printed on the cigarette paper. (Can be provided as samples, no charge.)



Favorite Letters to the Cedilla

SOCIÉTÉ
DE CONTRÔLE ET D'EXPLOITATION
DE TRANSPORTS AUXILIAIRES
S. C. E. T. A.

Société Anonyme au Capital de 88.845.560 F
Siège Social : 66, Rue de Monceau - PARIS

8J Chèques Postaux : PARIS 883-41
R. C. Seine 57 B 150 97

SERVICE RÉGIONAL MÉDITERRANÉE
1, Rue Mazogron - MARSEILLE (1^{re})
Tel : 59.24.20 - 59.24.21

ME/V.

Marseille, le 14 Juillet 1967

Donna Jo BREWER
12, rue de May
06 - VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER

Madam,

I have indeed received your letter of 17th May 1967, a letter every aspect of which has held my attention.

I am heart-broken that your imperfect knowledge of the French language and as well the lack of initiative of one of our agents has occasioned for you such grievous consequences.

I particularly regret that the marvelous chicken prepared and cooked through the expert attentions of your husband could not serve you as "Ample food for thought" which I judge—in reading your letter—amply witty and saturated with the best anglo-saxon humor.

Concerning your request for re-imbusement, if I held to the rule, it would be impossible for me to give you satisfaction. Indeed, the bus you took was an express which does not stop at VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER and all precautions had been taken to inform our customers in this respect.

Thus, not being able to reimburse you for the three tickets "Beaulieu—Villefranche-sur-Mer," I could not moreover defray for you the cost of the calcinated chicken. In matters involving claims, the National Railroad Company is restricted—by the rigorous rulings of the Court of Appeals—to reimbursing only the direct, immediate, and foreseeable costs of their own error. Acknowledge, as I do, that our agent could not foresee that, during your trip, a chicken especially prepared to satisfy your appetite was waiting for you at home and that in case of delay this fowl was in danger of being irremediably lost.

Nevertheless, considering the courteous and humorous tone of your letter, and your position as foreign tourists, coming from a friendly country, I am happy to send you a money order for 7.50 F, as compensation for your disappointments.

In this way, Madam you will perhaps be persuaded that, though the key-word of MR. BRECHT's work is of French origin, it does not always inspire the ends and means of our national activities.

In conclusion, I would be obliged if you would take the trouble to indicate at which publisher, or in which better book store, I might be able to obtain the works which you have cited in your letter. Reading them will allow me without a doubt to escape for a few hours my administrative concerns. And during one of my trips through VILLEFRANCHE it might be possible for me—at least I hope so—to obtain a dedication from the distinguished authors.

Please be assured, Madam, of my most respectful compliments.

(signature unreadable)
The Regional Manager

One-Minute Scenario

A man waiting for a train.

At his feet is his suitcase.

The suitcase is transparent.

In it, little people at their windows look out.

The Honorable Game

A game where everyone, surprised, contributes the money in his pocket to the pot,

listing perhaps:

1 \$5 bill

1 \$1 bill

5 half dollars

2 quarters

4 dimes

2 nickels

8 pennies

An analysis of all bills and coins is made and the player having the most (or least) pieces closest to the mode of distribution wins all the money (or a specified part of it, taken more or less equally from all contributors).

Butter Game

Why do dogs bark?

They wouldn't if butter were:

a stone ☐

a leaf ☐

a cat ☐

a dog ☐

didn't melt ☐

(check an answer)

One-Minute Scenario

A woman sits near the telephone.
The telephone rings.
The woman lets it ring several times.
Then she pulls out a pair of scissors.
She cuts the line.

Text by George for the catalog of Robert's "Exposition Intuitive" at Galerie Ranson, Paris, in the form of telegrams to some of our friends, posing some of the questions presented by Robert's over-sized telegrams in the gallery itself.

TELEGRAMME

ALAIN ZUFFEROY
105 RUE N2 DES CHAMPS, PARIS

EST-CE QUE TU ME REPLETES, TU TE PRECÈDES
ET TU TE SUIVS ?

GEORGE

Paris 12/12/74

Je te réplique je te précède
et je te suis comme je me réplique
à me précéder et à me suis
à ce que tu te questionnes
Alain Zuffero

TELEGRAMME

DANIEL SPORARI
SINI, DODECANESE, GREECE

IS SELF-DECEPTION THE ONLY POPULAR ART?
PLEASE WIRE.

GEORGE

TELEGRAMMA

OTC

VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER
5351-14-6-16
GEORGE SPORARI
SYM
EGRO

IS SELF-DECEPTION THE ONLY POPULAR
ART PLEASE WIRE

DANIEL

TELEGRAMME

CHIKO SHIOHARA
5-1 MIBURO 2-CHU, KITANAGATE, OKAYAMA-SHI, JAPAN

SOMEWHERE SOMEHOW ARE YOU A FISH?

GEORGE

Okayama Fall 14 16 18

B. Zuffero A. W. Shiohara
Chiko

TELEGRAMME

PANTUS MUSTEN
MARENA MUSTEN, STONING

GEORGE

from The Anthology of Misunderstandings

Dear George

By receiving the announcement of Robert Filliou's EXPOSITION INTUITIVE which includes telegram event, I found that there was an confusion on wiring.

The telegram I had received was

SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, ARE YOUR A FISH B PLEASE WIRE

while your original was

SOMEWHERE, SCMEHOW, ARE YOU A FISH ?

When I received your telegram, I could not catch exactly what it meant. So I interpreted it very intuitively for answering.

And there was another such

BLUE VITRIOL (my origanal) ----- BLUE VTRIOL

I didn't know the international telegram was so capricious till now.

P.S.

Thank you very much for your beautiful gift via Ay-0.
I am very happy about it.

Bonne Annee !

love Chieko

Dear Reader

One of our dearest projects is to compile and publish an
Anthology of Misunderstandings.

Please forward the most interesting misunderstanding you
have been involved in to:

La Cédille Qui Sourit
12 rue de May
Villefranche-sur-mer (A.M.)
France;

Credit will be given, unless otherwise requested.

Yours cedillaly



One-Minute Scenario

Women's prison in the middle of town.
A paper falls out of a window to the feet of a passer-by.
A man picks up the paper, reads it.
It contains an address.
The man goes there.
The door is ajar.
The man knocks on the door.
Nobody answers.
The man pushes the door open and steps in.
A bucket of water falls on his head.

The Game of Pressure

Any number of players bets on the average of all the players' blood-pressure.

A pot is put up, each adding to it according to his confidence in the outcome, perhaps.

All the players go to a doctor (or to different doctors) and have their blood-pressures measured.

The player closest to the average wins the pot.

A variation:

Body-temperatures are taken instead of blood-pressures, players bring their own thermometers.

Natural Oceanic Projects

Transporting the Statue of Liberty to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean so that west-bound travelers can see it sooner.

The North Pole to be put in place of the South Pole, and the South Pole to be put in place of the North Pole, by following a course in the shape of a cedilla.*

* The amount of water remains the same.

The Game of Definitions

The first player writes, on a slip of paper, "What is _____," and he completes the sentence. The second player, without seeing what the other has written, writes "It is _____," and completes his sentence. The two players then read their sentences in order, making any necessary grammatical adjustments.

For example (played by Donna Jo Jones and George Brecht)

What is a factory? It is the manner in which George Washington's men rowed him across the Delaware.

What is well dressed? It is the space between the top of the water and the bottom of the bridge.

What is an answer? It is five ice-cubes melting.

What is a question? It is a method for drying wet matches between the toes.

What is a whortleberry? It is smoking under water while sexually excited.

One-Minute Scenario

A man is shopping in a super-market.
He fills up several carts with all kinds of goods.
The cashier runs up an enormous list of items and totals it.
The man has no money on him.

The Mystery Game

IV

A Contribution to the Art of Assemblage.

Take a(n) _____ (object) _____
put it through a process of _____ (process) _____

Again take a(n) _____ (object) _____
put it through a process of _____ (process) _____

once more take a(n) _____ (object) _____
put it through a process of _____ (process) _____

Assemble the results.

One-Minute Scenario

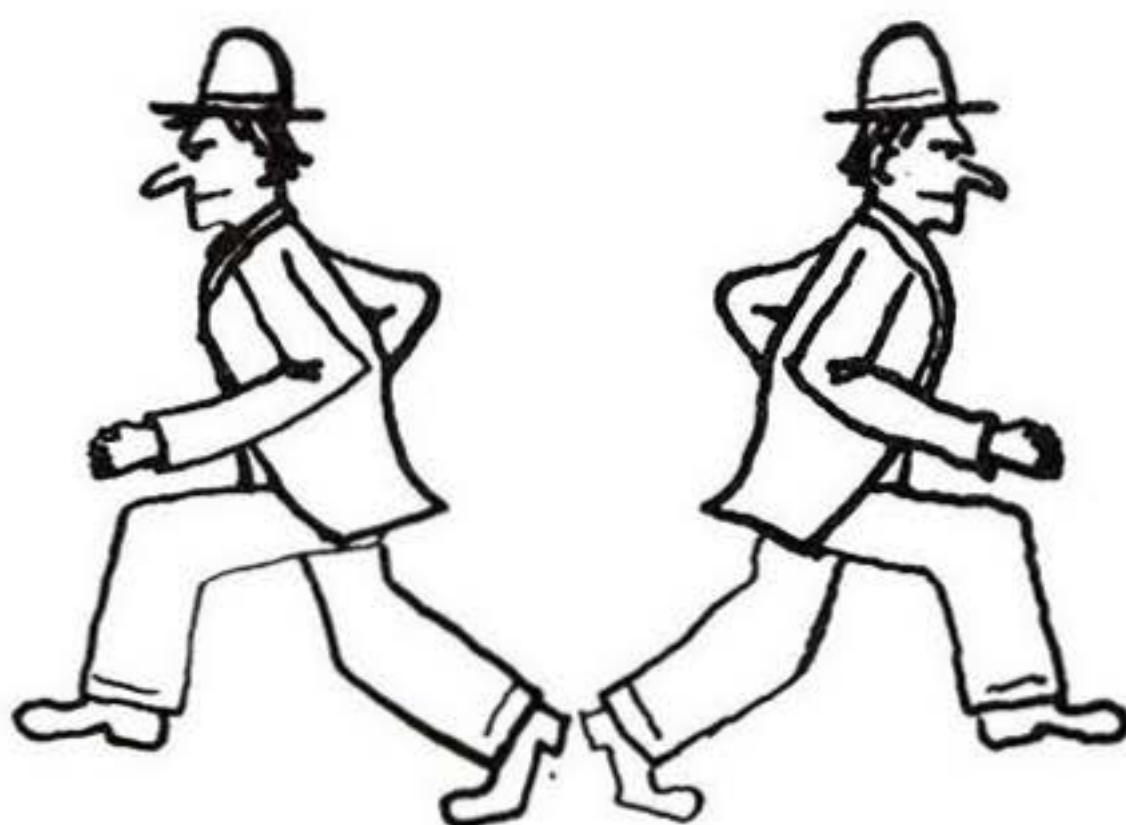
A woman watering flowers on a window sill.

Accidentally she knocks off one pot of flowers and holds her breath.

The camera backs up.

The woman's house is hanging over a cliff.

For miles around, at the bottom of the cliff, spreads a desert.



One-Minute Scenario

A man runs out of the Chelsea Hotel, 222 W. 23rd Street, N.Y.

He runs east to 7th Avenue

then south to 22nd Street

then west to 8th Avenue

then north to 23rd Street

then east to the Chelsea Hotel which he re-enters at the same speed.

Statistical Game

The probability that _____ (a noun) can _____ (a verb) is
_____ (a number) to _____ (a number) .

1st player provides the noun and the first number, 2nd
player provides the verb and second number.

(Example, as played by George and Robert.)

The probability that a *houseboat* can *fly* is 1 to 57.

24/467 fly

censor's
sign

Serge Oldenbourg
Praha 66/09
Czechoslovakia
Dear George

I'm writing to you in French* because I write English even worse than I speak it. I thank you for having thought of me so nicely in the review Open. I'm afraid I won't be back however for some time. I went to trial the 23rd and 24th of March and was condemned to three years in prison. I appealed the sentence and I don't know when I will have a new trial. I think I may get less than three years but I'll still be here for a while.

If you have the time write me what's going on in Villefranche, in Nice, and in the world, as far as art, non-art, happening, etc. . . . I think they're going to be able to integrate me into the école de Nice,** seeing as how I haven't drunk a drop of alcohol for six months. How are you? How is Donna? How are Robert and Marianne? As well as the bunch of children?

I'm holding up pretty well in prison, there's enough food, it's well-heated and, what I appreciate most, it's clean. Of course most of the time I have nothing to do and that's why the time passes so slowly. Besides I get few letters from friends in Nice and no news of art or non-art.

At our last performance in Prague I had asked the audience to laugh like you do. It was very good. I hope you don't mind that. If you see Ben tell him I got his package which I thank him for very much, and that I'll write him soon. If

* English translation by Robert and George.

** whose members are notorious non-drinkers and non-smokers.
(tr.n.)

from Favorite Letters to the Cedilla

Serge Oldenbourg, maker of "contents"* and one of the Cedilla's original co-workers (it is he who was responsible for painting and installing all the electrical fixtures in the Cedilla's main offices at 12 rue de May, Villefranche), as well as the first man to perform Russian roulette on the stage of a theater, went to Prague in the fall of 1966 to take part in a series of performances of avant garde works there. He never came back and we learned later that he was in prison. We reproduce here his first letter to the Cedilla since this event.

* "Contents" of cigarette packages, boxes of soap powder, etc. One of our favorites is the "contents" of a shoe which once walked around Mount Blanc.

you happen to send me a package, don't send cigarettes as the custom duties are rather high, and the French consul sends me some from time to time. What would please me most are some books. If you write me, don't be surprised if I don't answer right away, the mail here is not very fast.

Is the Cedilla going as you would like it to? You can't know how happy I would be to see it again and to have a few good drinks with you and Robert. What I miss most are friends and not wine. In a little while I will be able to write more often and I expect to swamp everybody with my letters. I'll write you at greater length at that time. What makes me happy is that many friends have not forgotten me. I'll ask you, the evening you get this letter, to serve an extra glass of wine for me and that someone drinks it to my health.

So, I'm not demoralized, and I hope that shortly we'll again be able to tour around Villefranche in my car.

Give my regards to all our friends, I don't mention names, there are too many. Warm regards and a friendly hand-shake.
Serge.

2. THE BOTTLE BOTTLE-OPENER



Ravenel, Le chatelain
30 April 1966

Established and Reversed Masters -

Having heard of the ^{vital} reforms which you, Le Chatelain, the Soviet are undertaking in so many areas of human life, I am sending you a proposal which I humbly suggest offers solutions to ~~the~~ the important problems of one of the world's largest and most powerful countries. This proposal was originally made to the Société Française pour l'Affranchissement des Caves, which I was formerly a member, but was rejected. Its ~~sent~~ ^{come} ~~vous~~ ^{vous} ~~avez~~ ^{avez}!

I will await with desperation your comments, and would be interested to know whether you would be interested in publishing this work.

Be assured, gentlemen, of my
most distinguished sentiments,
Florent Staffeldt

Appendix II: Tentative d'affranchissement des caves

The Great Society

Everybody is in favor of the Great Society. Some impediments have been encountered that make the Great Society slow to achieve.

These impediments are: negroes, jews, vietnam, communism, germany, dissent, protest, dislike and envy from the rest of the world, artists, puritanism, taxes, france, boredom, and

famine in the third world.

La Cédille Qui Sourit proposes the following as creative steps toward the solution of all these problems.

1) mobilize all the male negroes of America and send them to Vietnam, in uniform but unarmed.

2) once all the American male negroes are in Vietnam, pull out all the white soldiers and other advisors. The negroes will be captured by the Vietcong.

3) when all of Vietnam consists of Vietnamese and negro prisoners, bomb Vietnam to pieces. Result: you win the war in Vietnam and you get rid of the male negro problem.

4) meanwhile, back home, all negro women are put into Institutes of Advanced Erotology where white adults will learn to be rid for ever of their puritanism and world-famous backwardness in lovemaking techniques.

5) these institutes will be created in lofts. The artists who used to live there will be sent to the Mojave desert.

6) U.S. troops will be pulled out of Germany. Each soldier will bring with him a bucketful of German soil, so that the whole of Germany is carried to the United States. Result: end of the German reunification problem and the Berlin wall.

7) this soil from the former Germany will be dumped in the Mojave desert, on the artists packed there. Result: no more artists, no more dissent, no more protests.

8) flowers will be grown from now on in the Mojave, the artists providing the fertilizer. These flowers will be made into bouquets to be sent every year to the children of the Third World suffering famine. Result: everyone in the world will love Americans, and the consciences of the U.S. population will be relieved.

9) the former Germany having lost all its ground, rivers will quickly transform it into a freshwater lake. There Americans will spend their vacations abroad, thus avoiding going to France, which will be ruined by the lack of tourism. Result: de Gaulle will have had it.

10) German citizens will be given Vietnam in exchange for their former nation. Their task in the new white Vietnam will be to skin all the corpses of the negroes found there, and to send that skin to the U.S. together with the yellow bones of the Vietnamese dead. The black skin will be made into bingo cards, through the easy process of printing white lines and numbers on it. The yellow bones will be turned into bingo chips. Then all Americans can play bingo together. Result: no more boredom.

11) the money coming from the massive utilization of the whorehouses will go to the federal and state governments, who will stop all other forms of taxation.

12) daily winners in the bingo games will win free cruises across the Atlantic, through the German Great Lake and back home through the Mediterranean.² The Jews will all be turned into the sailors who operate the boats. Thus, no more discrimination. (The boats will be donated by the French Navy, which has not won a battle since the 13th Century and therefore might as well contribute its ships to the pursuit of pleasure, in accord with the aims of all other Frenchmen.

And so it goes.

The only problem our general staff could not solve is that of envy from abroad.

Can we help it if other nations envy us our Great Society.

Let them create it through hard work as we did, or GO TO HELL.

¹ By means of the unquestioned American technological skill, all the toilets from all the bars in the United States will be connected to a giant aqueduct to conduct all the piss to the Mojave. Thus the desert can be irrigated. (A part of the Mojave not reserved for flowers can be used to grow malt and hops from which beer can be made to help ensure the continuous irrigational flow.)

² This may involve buying Switzerland and Monaco to be turned into a grand canal, sending the Swiss to Communist countries to convert the people into milk-drinking Capitalist watchmakers. Thus no more Reds and Princess Grace can go back to acting in movies. Details to be worked out later.

The Game of Inventions

One player finishes the sentence "What is a new way to _____" on one slip of paper. The other player writes. "By _____" (describing one action). Neither player sees what the other has written, until the two parts are combined. **For example** (played by Robert Filliou and George Brecht)

What is a new way to get around the world? By wiping it every morning on the doormat.

What is a new way to keep your feet dry when it's raining? By looking upon it as a song rather than as a sound.

What is a new way to climb the tallest mountain? By putting it next to a red marble.

What is a new way to hold your breath for 40 years? By tipping it.

What is a new way to find one more person to love? By including it in our collected works.

One-Minute Scenario

A general is water-skiing.

The camera moves along the pulling rope.

In the water, a swimming soldier is pulling the rope with his teeth.

Game of the Conditional

The first player writes a phrase beginning with "If" Without seeing what the first has written, the second player writes a phrase beginning "then" The two parts are afterward combined.

For example (played by George and Robert)

If clocks were horse-turds, then I would buy a ticket to New York.

If lemons were sweet, the world would end, wouldn't it?

If Robert were me, and I were Jesus Christ, women would be very distressed.

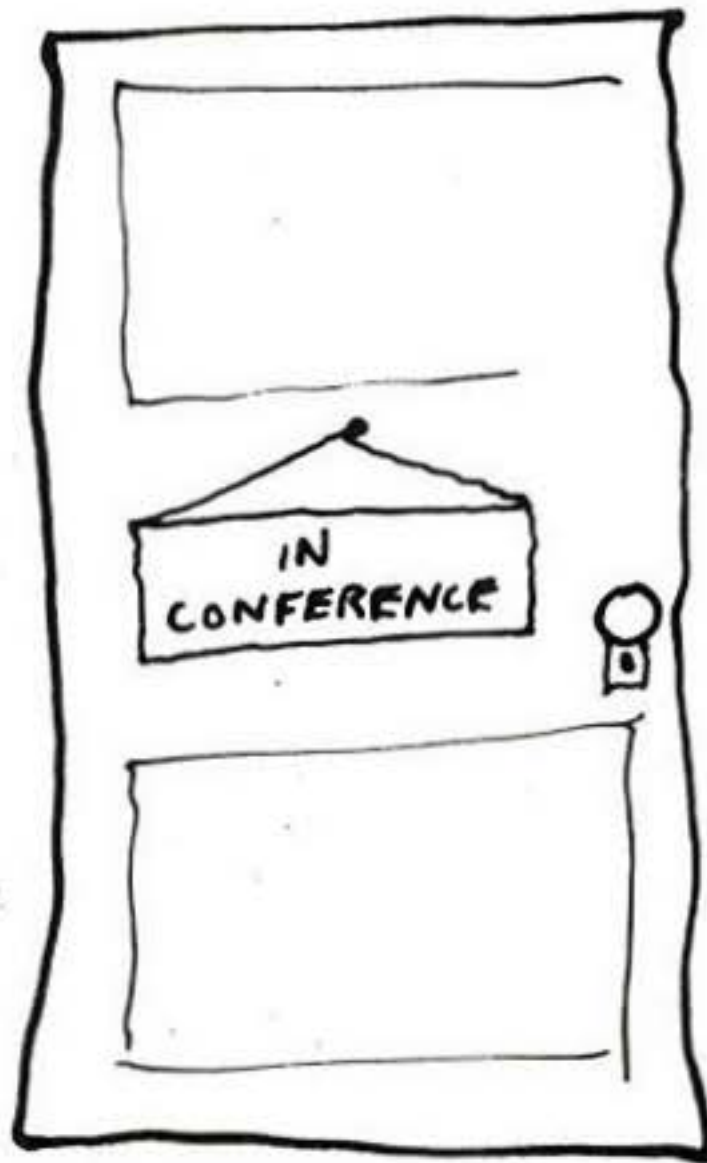
If ocean water were wine, and wine were ocean water, why go to the moon?

If mathematics were the woman I love, then that would be enough.

Robert's zen necklace



(Three corks and a matchbox, for example.)



One-Minute Scenario

In a restaurant, a customer waits in front of the toilet door.
A cook's apprentice enters.
He knocks three times at the door.
From inside, the toilet door opens a few inches.
A hand holding a salad comes through the opening.
The young cook takes it.
The door closes again: "Occupied."

Famous Unknown Quotations*

*(For two people that I love: my father, Ellis and my son, Eric
—George Brecht)*

First player writes a statement, second player, without seeing what the first has written, completes a clause beginning "and _____" and decides who has pronounced the resulting phrase.

For example (played by George and Robert.)

— I have never had a love whose name I didn't know—
and I always drank my tea before it was cold.

Josephine, Emperatrix

— At night I think of owls and ashcans and listen to the
sound of airplanes.

Nam June Paik

— The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is
drink coffee and smoke cigarettes, but before that I open my
eyes—and death shall have no dominion.

Dylan Thomas

— Nothing is better than anything else—and damn that
humidity.

Victor Hugo

— Of course everyone has preferences—and keep your
eyes open.

Anonymous

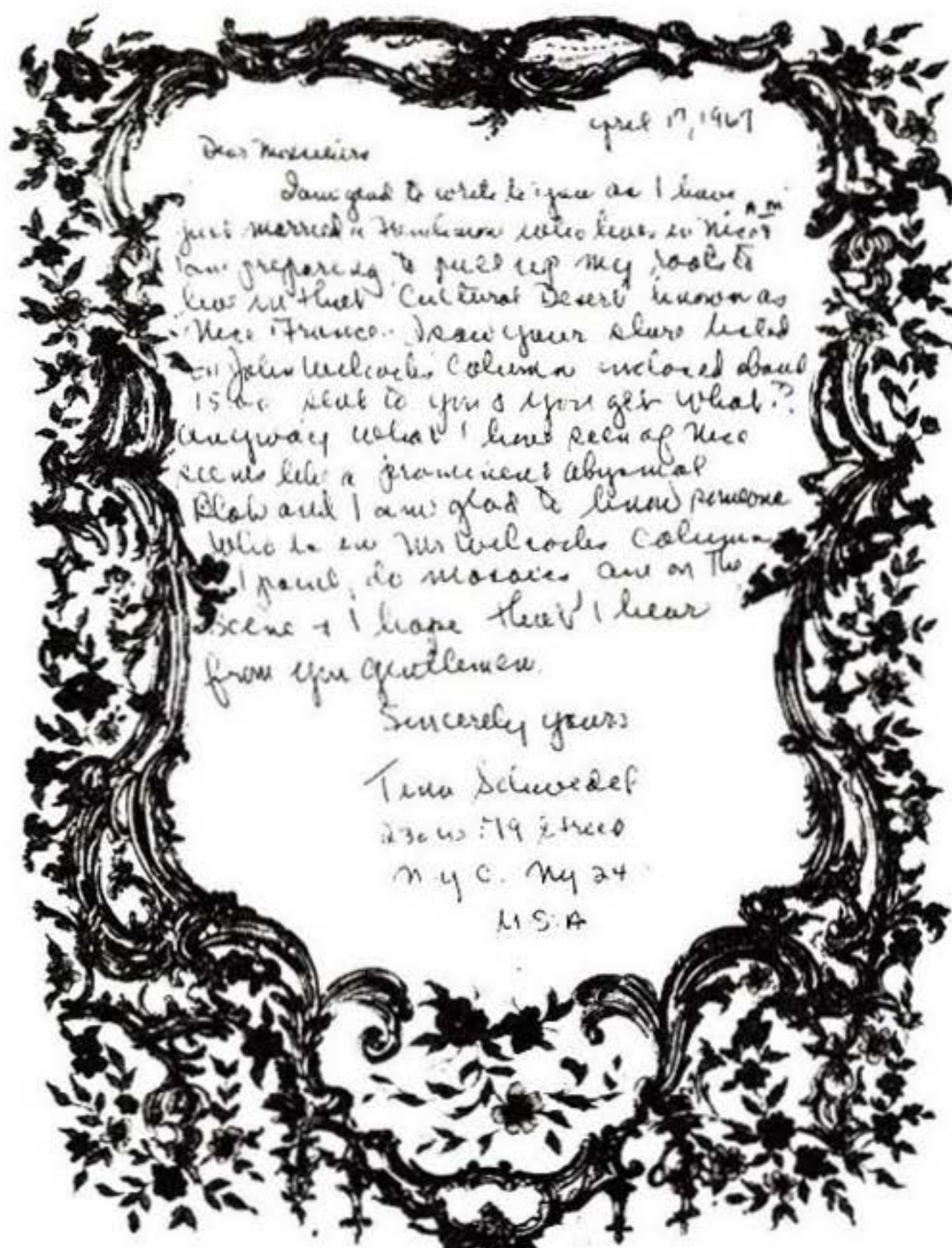
— My life has always been like the life of a tree—and I'll
repeat it a thousand times.

IBM machine

— Poems are like shoelaces—but sink the Springfield.

French Communist Party

* We think this game could be improved.



THE SCENE

STRIKING back at the finks and presumed finks, many heads have started to carry pads of affidavit forms which suspicious hangers-on are asked to sign. The forms affirm that the signatory is not a police informant or "a participant observer seeking to develop information for use in prosecutions" ... The Something Else Newsletter (160 Fifth Avenue, NYC 10010) suggests you send fifteen bucks to "the most amazing store in the world, La Cedille qui Sourit, run by George Brecht and Robert Filliou (which) sells objects, mostly original aesthetic researches by artists." The store is at 12 Rue de May, Ville-franche-sur-mer (A-M), France ... "Boo Hoos would be wise to keep all goats off."



If I were King

First player completes the clause "If I were King _____."

The second player without seeing what the first has written, completes "and _____," suggesting a consequence. For example (played by Robert and George.)

If I were king I would be a French king—and everybody would play instead of working.

If I were king I would've become mad while crossing a wood at night—and everybody would work instead of playing.

If I were king I would have built Versailles—and there would be no poets.

If I were king I'd have fucked Madame du Barry and everybody would be a poet.

If I were king I'd have died under the guillotine—and garbage cans would be full of electronic tubes.

One-Minute Scenario

Two tailors are working in a shop.
One of them wears no trousers.
The other no coat.
Each is tailoring what the other one is lacking.

One-Minute Scenario

A sewer man works in a man-hole.
A European Catholic priest stops by the hole.
The man looks up his skirts.

What I See

First player writes "When _____," and describes an activity involving seeing. Second player writes "I see _____," and completes the clause.

For example (played by Robert and George.)

When I shut my eyes and keep telling myself "MU"—I see 47 canaries sitting on top of the Eiffel Tower.

When I am blinded by the sun I see a box of tools in the middle of a fountain.

When I stare at a beautiful girl's legs, I see a gasoline pump painted silver.

When I notice myself in your pupils I see the woman I love with her arms around me, my arms around her.

When I write the Dictionary of Eyes—I will see richly dressed people moving down brocaded stairs, a servant dressed in lamé leans over the marble railing.

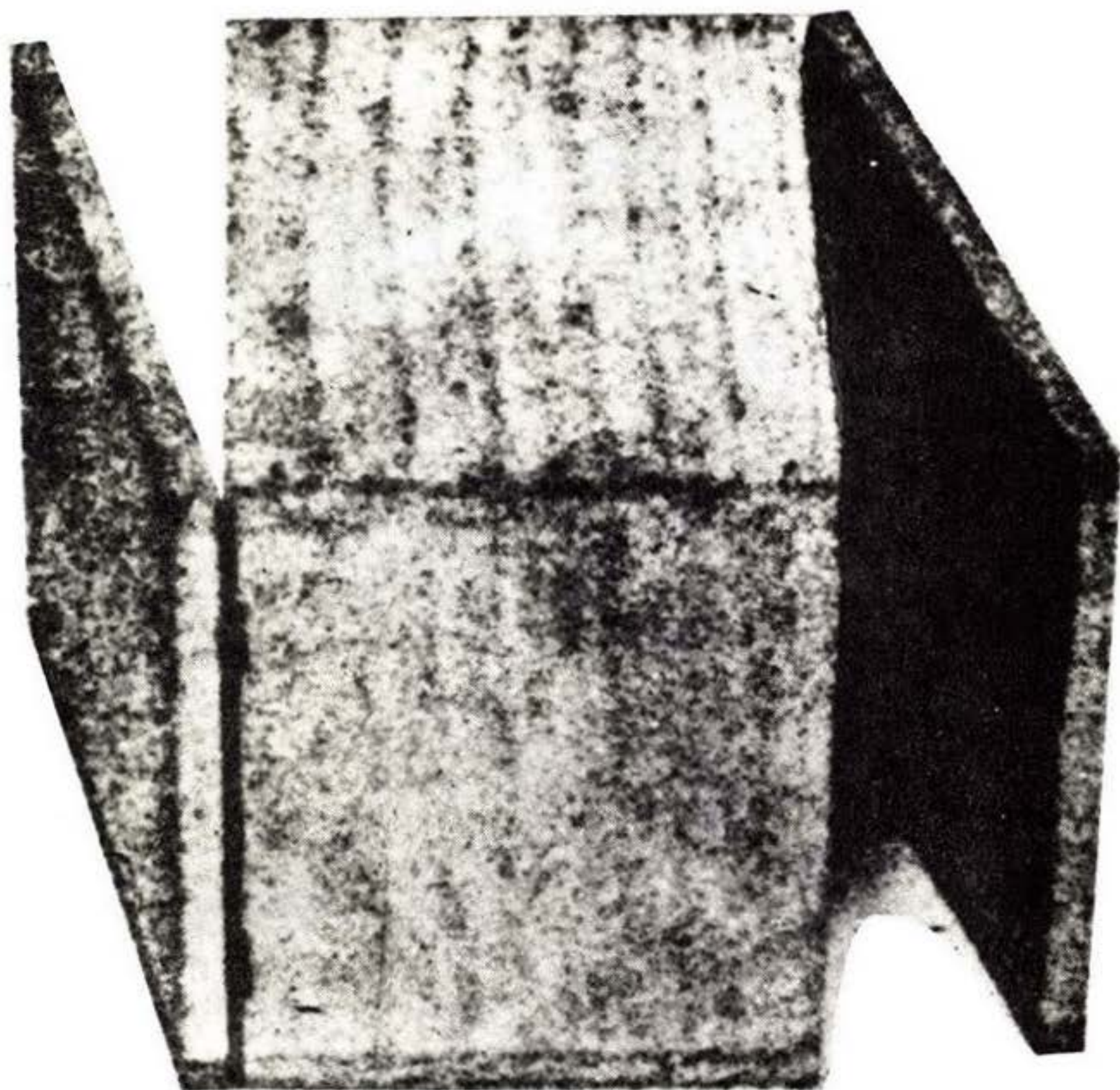
One-Minute Scenario

A car driven by a man, a young woman at his side.

The man sings at the top of his voice.

The camera moves up and to the side.

Inside the car the young woman is playing a small piano resting on her knees.



Robert's concept designed by Takako Saito.

Photo by Dick Higgins

The Futile Box

It is a box containing an object—a round ball, for instance.

When you close the box the bottom opens and the object falls out.

The best way to realize this is to have the object just a little bit too big for the box.

It is the object itself which makes the bottom open.

Story Time —

The Novel Game

Each player takes one or more of four categories: Beginning, Development, Climax, and End, and writes his section, using characters previously agreed upon by all players. No player sees what any other player has written.

For example: (In this example Robert wrote the beginning and climax, and George wrote the development and end, around the characters "the man with the hole in his head," "the girl," and "the landlord.")

The girl had nothing, really, to do with it all. She saw the murder, if it was a murder, which no one knows for certain, since no one ever saw the man with the hole in his head without a hole in his head. "Of course," whispered the girl, "you see, he never took off his wide-brimmed hat."

But the landlord does not believe that what the girl said is true. He takes his machete and breaks all the windows. Then he discovers who he loves.

And so, there I was crying. The landlord, furious, pulled out his gun. Without hesitation, he aimed it at the head of the man with (maybe) a whole in his head.

Thus the man with the whole-in-his-head finds that all the tubs were filled with silver. He makes a pot of soup and sleeps in it. Only the landlord dreams (he supposes).

One-Minute Scenario

A sea resort. In the water,
A man puts on his waterskis.
Another one climbs into the pulling boat.
The boat sinks.

FLUXUS **f**



LA CÉDILLE
QUI SOURIT



À
RTOTAT





POESIE ACTION

Poem av: FRANCOIS DUFRENE, JOHN GIORNO,
BERNARD HEIDSIECK, MIMMO ROTELLA

BEN kommer, liksom GEORGE BRECHT, BERNARD
HEIDSIECK, P. A. GETTE och DONNA BREWER



Pjäser av: BEN, G. BRECHT, Y. KLEIN, R. FILLIOU,
LA MONTE YOUNG, PAIK, SHIOMI,
WATTS bl. a.

P. A. GETTE ORGANISERAR

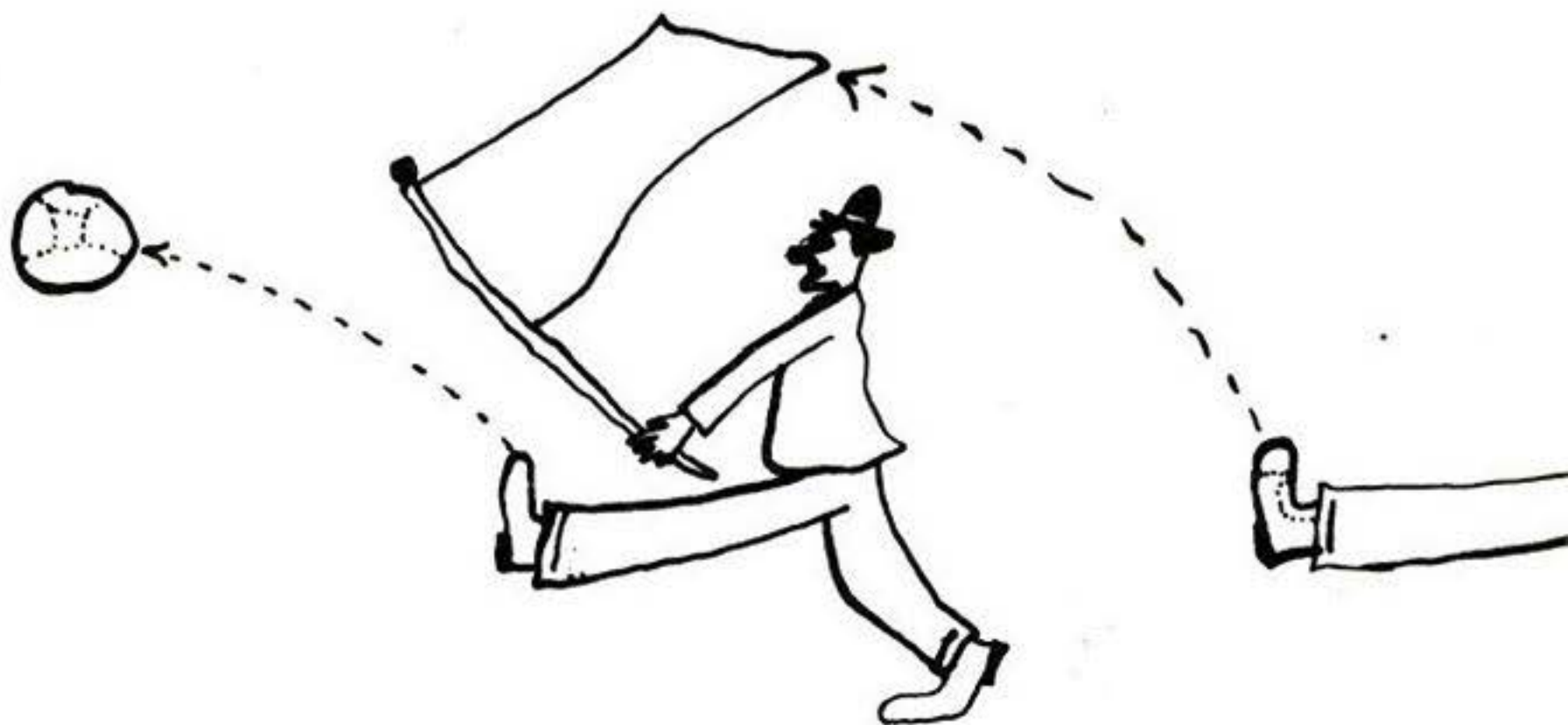
EXPERIMENTkonstpoesimusikfilmteaterhappening. Liksom.

Spektakel aldrig tidigare framförda i Skandinavien

LUNDS KONSTHALL — ABF

fredag kväll, söndag kväll, lördag eftermiddag 10, 11, 12 mars

This was a project but



we have forgotten what it was.



Robert's Branche Autonome with some parts missing.

Photo by Dick Higgins

An Anecdote

Ionesco subscribed to one of our suspense poems. The one forwarded to him was Filliou's Branche Autonome of the Gallery Légitime. In May 1966 the following telephone conversation took place in Paris between Daniel Spoerri and Mme. Ionesco.

Spoerri: Is Ionesco in?

Mme. Ionesco: No, he's out.

Spoerri: My friend Filliou is here with me. You know Ionesco subscribed to one of his suspense-poems. What did you think of it?

Mme. Ionesco: Well, it's kind of a joke, isn't it?

Spoerri: It's humoristic, yes.

Mme. Ionesco: The Dadaists did that before.

Spoerri: Didn't the Dadaists write Ionesco type plays 40 years ago?

Mme. Ionesco: Perhaps. But Ionesco at least is serious.

(reported from memory one year later by Robert)



This is when Robert and
I drank Casanova and
talked about breaking a
broken pipe, 1971, 1972
and 1973-74

the misunderstanding, brawling, survival, and to-be-dated poem

end of the poem George Brecht (date of death)
end of the poem Daniel Spoerri (date of death)
.....
.....
.....
end of the poem Robert Filliou (date of death)

The above was composed by Robert following a conversation with George, in his Rome apartment, via Fratelli Bandiera 25, July 1965, during which George predicted that he would die through a misunderstanding, and Daniel Spoerri in a brawl, and that Robert would survive them both.

It was during that same (drunken) evening, by the way, that the Cédille Qui Sourit was conceived.

On the facing page is the box George gave Robert the next day in exchange for his poem.

Three Contributions to George Brecht's Dream Economics

12 January 1966

Dear George,

I dreamed that I received an eight and one half million dollar (\$8,500,000) grant from the Ford Foundation. Does this make a significant contribution to the economy of dreams?

Geoff

P.S. Did you look at a cloud today?

G.

17 January 1966

wet-dreams dispense of choice, save time (effort and/or money)

Robert Filliou

This morning I was dreaming that I was flying to Reykjavik but I forgot the address from Diter Rot.

So long
Daniel (Spoerri)

(readers are invited to send their contributions to this future publication)



One of Donna's creations.

Photo by Vera Spierri

from Robert Filliou's work-in-progress,
Principles of Poetical Economy

the creation of a work of art is a function of time

$$w = f(t)$$

the speed at which a work of art is conceived tends toward infinity

$$w = t \left(\frac{t}{s} \right) s \rightarrow \infty$$

the work itself may be created in, say, 1 hour.

it may require 100 hours to get it seen by someone controlling the diffusion in the art market

500 (5,000 – 50,000 – 500,000) hours may elapse before it is diffused (shown, published, etc.)

how many more hours before it is sold, or performed, reviewed, etc. . . . ?

the assimilation of a work of art is function of time of creation plus time of diffusion h

$$W = f(t + h)$$

$$h \rightarrow \infty$$

(Allan Kaprow commented on this, "This is why we tend more & more toward an art limiting itself to ideas." Your contributions to this work will be welcome. Anything, perhaps particularly how you make your money & how you spend it—Robert)



Filliou taking Brecht to an exhibition in Nice in one of Marianne's "Sacs à Artiste."
Photo by J.-J. Strauch

Towards a Villefranche of the Arts

The Mayor of Villefranche is puzzled. The town owns 10 acres of land, right by the sea, upon which stands the Citadelle, where the galley slaves used to be packed. The town council wants to use the ground and building to the best advantage of Villefranche.

Three projects have been presented:

- 1 – By the casino in Juan-les-Pins: create a new casino.
- 2 – By Hilton, Inc.: build a Hilton Villefranche
- 3 – By La Cédille Qui Sourit: turn the Citadelle into a non-school of Villefranche, in which artists from the world over will be invited to give non-courses.

Please write the project you favor to:

Monsieur le Maire
Mairie, de Villefranche-sur-mer
Alpes-Maritimes

keeping in mind:

1 – that the Casino in Juan-les-Pins is going bankrupt (according to the owner of the Casino Municipal in Nice)

2 – that Elizabeth Taylor is Mr. Hilton's former daughter-in-law.

3 – that the non-school of Villefranche would be headed by the celebrated (non) urbanist Shadrach Woods seconded by Jean-Pierre Walfard, the artisan's best friend.

George, from the kitchen, pouring himself a glass of beer:
"Robert, do you think we should dedicate the book to anyone?"

Robert, in the front room, sipping his wine: *"What do you have in mind?"*

HE BELIEVE IT OR NOT GAME

the (highest church in the world) is
(located at Brzno, Czechoslovakia, and
is made out of orange crates)

ESUITCASE
GAME

I want to
get a suitcase
lined with feathers
so I can
use it for a
doorstop).
7 ways to USE it

worn out shoe-soles)
can be used
to fix leaks in
the roof),
contribution to
Million's "Principles
man"

JOVONS

LA
CEDILLE

PLAYING
THE
CEDILLA

6
for
your
book

Practical Household Tips
If ~~you~~ (mention a common
household problem) then
(mention a solution)

For the Do-It-yourself
Handyman

(Pictures can be hung faster
and more neatly) by (~~using~~
making your walls out
of cork)

THE GAME OF ASSEMBLAGE

Add Take a (object) add a ()
and an () ...

WHAT EVERY YOUNG BOY SHOULD

GIRL

THE MORALITY QUESTION

FORMING GOOD
HABITS AND HOW TO STC

How to

MAKE MONEY

I am ~~for~~ going to (stop smoking).
so that (my hair will stop turning white
I had n
pals

LIKE TO BE BETTER

then driving (in the rain)
be sure (your hat is on tight)

HOW TO SLEEP BETTER

Inventions for R. Filliou's benefit,
who sleeps for three hours in
a good night.]

in order to sleep (longer), just
(Keep a cat under your bed),

THE LOGIC GAME

every A is B
every B is C
every A is C
(or: every A is D)
see on a B beforehand,
much variety
the B's.

"pianist"
"a cross-eyed
astronaut"

better

II Another

THE SUPERIORITY GAME

Bridge Game → A () is like ()
A () is not a

THE GOURMETS & DELIGHT RECIPES

(For several people)
Take =
(cut in pieces)
(boil, etc.)

THE SLANG GAME

The english word () is the
same as the French word ()
(3 nouns - 2 verbs)

Imagine together a laugh

Variation on
the Conditional

TRICKS (THE GAME OF
MAGIC - To make a (nickel
disappear) just (wrap it in your handkerchief)
very concrete choices

Then...
Food

History Renovated

then I
won't

Games At The Cedille

or

The Cedilla Takes Off

Games At Th

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